

STIRLING
PRESBYTERY
RECORDS

1581-1587

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Stirling Presbytery Records

STIRLING

Presbytery Records

1581-1587

edited by James Kirk, PH.D.



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PREFACE

Grateful acknowledgment is made to the Presbytery of Stirling for permission to publish its earliest records in a volume which, coincidentally, commemorates the quater-centenary of the creation of presbyteries in 1581. When I first gained access to the records in 1968, the volumes were preserved in the Church of the Holy Rude, Stirling; and I would express my thanks to the Rev. Thomas Kinloch, then Clerk to the Presbytery. The records were subsequently transmitted to the Scottish Record Office in January 1973, but they are due shortly to return to the burgh from which they came, for deposit in the Central Regional Archives at Stirling.

I would also record my thanks to Dr Ian Rae for seeing my manuscript through the press.

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June, 1981

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INTRODUCTION

STIRLING presbytery records merit particular attention not only as the earliest surviving presbytery records in Scotland but also as the only presbytery records for the late sixteenth century whose minutes commence with the presbytery's formal constitution and erection in 1581. As an ecclesiastical court, the presbytery came into being two decades after the institution of kirk sessions, provincial synods and general assemblies, but its appearance, as the history of its antecedents suggests, was less innovatory and less disruptive than is sometimes imagined.

Antecedents to the presbytery's erection: From its inception, the reformed church had developed a system of conciliar government which subordinated individual overseers to the supervision of a concentric series of church courts. The wide-ranging responsibilities attributed to superintendents and commissioners of provinces in the 1560s were never permitted to obscure the accountability of overseers, as regional administrators, to the ministers and elders within their jurisdiction and to the graded courts where authority collectively resided. During visitations, the superintendent was encouraged to act with the advice of assessors and with the assistance of the minister and elders of the congregation. Elsewhere, his activities were associated with the work of the synod and of the kirk session of the chief town of the province which became his court when he was resident. The existence of an appellate jurisdiction from kirk session and synod to general assembly (presided over by an elected moderator), to whose judgment the superintendents and commissioners were obliged to submit themselves for trial at every meeting, suggests a system essentially at variance with what are usually understood to be the principles of episcopacy.¹ 'Episkopē', it has been observed, 'originates with the bishop . . . and descends through

¹ J. K. Cameron, *The First Book of Discipline* (Edinburgh, 1972), 126-7; *The Works of John Knox*, ed. D. Laing (Wodrow Society, 1846-8), ii, 147, 150; *The Booke of the*

permanent moderators from the highest to the lowest in the Church.¹ Yet, it was indeed with some success that the Scots from 1560 had sought to repudiate the traditional apparatus of episcopal government and to replace it by a system where discipline was exercised primarily through the eldership.²

That this is a correct reading of events is supported by the church's reaction to the attempts of King James' government to ignore the assembly's repeated claims to dissolve the bishoprics of the unreformed church and to argue instead for their retention and (after further dispute) for their integration within the machinery of the reformed church. Such an arrangement reached in the financial and political compromise worked out at Leith in 1572 presaged the introduction of bishops, so recognised, within the church. But in 1572, the assembly, after protesting at aspects of the compromise, declined to accept the agreement as lasting, while criticism of the new 'counterfett bischopis' led the assembly in 1575 to question whether 'the bischops, as they are now in the Kirk of Scotland, hes thair function of the Word of God or not', and to resolve to dispense with its unsuccessful experiment in episcopal administration by returning in 1576 to a system of visitation whereby ministers received commissions from the assembly to act as visitors. Within four years of its introduction, the Leith episcopacy had been effectively eclipsed in so far as bishops had been eliminated from playing any distinctive part in ecclesiastical government.³

Universall Kirk of Scotland (BUK), (Edinburgh, 1839-45), i, 266 (accountability); Knox, *Works*, vi, 450; *BUK*, i, 17, 113, 161, cf. 19; *Register of the Minister, Elders and Deacons of the Christian Congregation of St Andrews (RStAKS)*, ed. D. H. Fleming (Scottish History Society, 1889-90), i, 257 (assessors); *BUK*, i, 195; *The Buik of the Kirk of the Canagait*, ed. A. B. Calderwood (Scottish Record Society, 1961), 24, 36, (ministers and elders); *BUK*, i, 29, 75, 162, 191, 193, 237, 241; St Andrews University Archives, MS. 30451, fo. 5v.; *RStAKS*, i, 110, 140, 143, 145, 151, 168-9, 183-4, 188, 190, 221, 229, 231, 233, 277-8, 308, 315, 318-9, 331, 343, 362 (synod and session); *BUK*, i, 33; *Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland (APS)*, edd. T. Thomson and C. Innes (Edinburgh, 1814-75), iii, 23, c. 7 (appeals); *BUK*, i, 25-6, 31, 39-40, 52-3, 65, 77, 112, 123, 157, 175, 184 (trial)

¹ P. Collinson, *The Elizabethan Puritan Movement* (London, 1967), 179

² J. Kirk, "'The Politics of the Best Reformed Kirks': Scottish achievements and English aspirations in church government after the Reformation", *Scottish Historical Review*, lix (1980), 22-53

³ J. Kirk, *The Second Book of Discipline* (Edinburgh, 1980), 13-42

Concern for effective and efficient oversight, which the Leith bishops so frequently had failed to provide, led the assembly to place further reliance on the collective responsibility of decisions taken in the ecclesiastical courts and on the work of ministers acting as temporary overseers commissioned by these courts rather than on a system which, regardless of any intended safeguards, looked as if it might permanently raise individual bishops to a position of superiority over their brethren (especially so, when one archbishop declined to acknowledge his subordination to the assembly) and which was designed to secure a measure of 'conformity with England', thereby placing at risk the survival of a distinctively reformed church order. In 1576, the assembly reiterated how, in exercising oversight and supervision, 'the power stands not in the visiter but in the kirk'; and in 1578 the Second Book of Discipline reaffirmed the essence of earlier ideals by recognising that 'nather may the name of ane bischop be attributit to the visitour onlie, nather is it necessar to abyd alwyse in ane manis persone', and that 'everie assemblie hes power to send furth frome thair awine number ane or ma visitouris to sie how all things be reulit in the boundis of thair jurisdiction'. This was strictly in accord with the assembly's explanation in 1565 that 'every true preacher of Jesus Christ is a Christian bishop', and with the system of administration exercised by superintendents and commissioners in association with the courts of the church.¹

In itself, the assembly's resolve to eliminate diocesan episcopacy implied a renewed emphasis on conciliar government rather than entrusting the government of the church at its highest levels to individuals. Such a tendency was apparent in England, too, where adherents of the anti-episcopal movement advocated the supersession of episcopacy and the adoption of the 'presbytery' or congregational eldership, and of the *classis* or district court, subordinate to the provincial synod and national assembly. In Scotland, however, where 'presbyteries' (in the English sense) had operated from 1559, there was no corresponding urgent advocacy in the 1570s for the introduction of any entirely new court modelled on the English or continental *classis*. What did emerge, however, was a recognition

¹ BUK, i, 367, 376-7, 385-6 (archbishop); BUK, i, 357 (visitor); Knox, *Works*, vi, 434 (minister as bishop); Kirk, *Second Book of Discipline*, 196-7

that not every church need have a separate eldership of its own, which had a particular relevance for areas where kirk sessions had not yet been fully established, and that, in rural areas especially, several contiguous churches might share a common eldership on a basis somewhat akin to the general sessions which had long been a familiar feature in the larger burghs.¹

This recommendation adopted in the Second Book of Discipline was motivated less by an attachment to doctrinaire principles than by the need to meet the very urgent problems associated with the Regent Morton's policy of uniting, under the supervision of one minister, three or four adjacent churches, otherwise served only by resident readers. All this helps to explain the Second Book of Discipline's decision that not every 'particular parochie kirk cane or may have thair awin particular eldarschip, especiall to landwart, bot we think thrie or four, ma or fewar, particular kirkis may have ane commoun eldarschip'.² In 1578, 'presbytery' was used as a synonym for 'eldership', when the general assembly admonished the existing bishops 'to usurp not the power of the presbytries'. But, as yet, the communal elderships commended in the Second Book of Discipline existed on paper and not in practice until, in reply to the synod of Lothian's plea for 'a general order to be taken for erecting of presbyteries in places quher publick exercise is used', the assembly finally determined in 1579 that 'the exercise may be judgit a presbyterie'. The exercise, which met in the burghs and market towns where ministers from the rural hinterland were expected to resort for scriptural exegesis, became the embryonic presbytery; and such an arrangement for linking the exercise with the disciplinary functions of the eldership proved a convenient enough device since the exercise already had assumed the rôle of an executive organ of administration from at least the early 1570s. Nevertheless, as an institution the exercise was by no means in universal operation throughout the country, and even where exercises did exist their history was tenuous and far from being an uninterrupted one. The need for a more systematic approach towards establishing presbyteries already had been indicated in the Second Book of Discipline's call for the assembly, with the king's consent, to appoint a committee 'to unit and devyd the parochis as necessitie and commoditie

¹ Kirk, *Second Book of Discipline*, 102-3

² *Ibid.*, 199

requires' and to 'designe places quhair the assembles of particular elderschippis sould convene'. This was achieved by the spring of 1581 when consultations with the privy council led to a revision of the parochial and diocesan structure so that 'presbitereis or elderschippis may be constitute', and thirteen model presbyteries were thereafter set up in central and southern Scotland to serve as 'exemplars to the rest', though no effective attempts were made to merge the work of the existing kirk sessions with the newly established presbyteries.¹

The presbytery's constitution and composition: In selecting Stirling as one of the thirteen initial centres for establishing presbyteries, the assembly of April 1581 had assigned the task of erecting the presbytery, somewhat surprisingly, to Bishop Andrew Graham of Dunblane and to Robert Montgomery, then minister of Stirling and soon to be provided to the archbishopric of Glasgow, who, along with Graham, made preparations for founding the presbytery or 'elderschip of Striviling', as the minutes reveal, on 8th August, 1581. A foretaste of the presbytery's composition had been revealed in the Second Book of Discipline's definition that 'be eldarschip is meint sic as ar constitut of pastouris, doctouris and sic as now ar callit eldaris'. The presbytery's inaugural meeting was duly attended by the ministers of Stirling, St Ninians, Falkirk, Dunblane, Logie, Alva, Fossoway and Muckhart, accompanied by elders from the churches of Stirling, Dunblane, St Ninians and Logie. Shortly thereafter, further recruits were forthcoming when elders from Alva, Fossoway and Glendevon were elected to serve as presbytery elders for life in response to the presbytery's decision that each kirk session should elect 'twa or thre elderis', approved by their congregation, to serve on the presbytery.²

The recognition that a presbytery elder should be elected for life and that he promise 'faythfullie to exerceis his office thairin unto the end of his lyif as God sall minister to him the giftis of his Spirit' was

¹ *Ibid.*, 105-7, 232; *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland (RPC)*, edd. J. H. Burton and D. Masson, 1st ser. (Edinburgh, 1877-98), iii, 383; D. Calderwood, *The History of the Kirk of Scotland*, ed. T. Thomson (Wodrow Society, 1842-9), iii, 523; *BUK*, ii, 482.

² *BUK*, ii, 487; *Kirk, Second Book of Discipline*, 202; see below, 1-2, 4-5; for further recruits, see below, 8, 14, 23, 46, 59, 64-65, 68, 113.

strictly in accord with the Second Book of Discipline's understanding that an elder 'anis lauchfullie callit to the office and having giftis of God meit to exerceyse the same may not leave it agane', but he was not of course expected to serve continuously without release from his duties.¹

The size of the presbytery, in practice, turned out to be considerably larger than the 'thrie or four, ma or fewar, particular kirkis' commended in the Second Book of Discipline, but noticeably fewer than the 25 constituent churches envisaged in the assembly's scheme of April 1581 which assigned to the presbytery 14 churches from the diocese of Dunblane, 9 churches from St Andrews diocese and 2 detached parishes from the diocese of Dunkeld. The assembly's plans seem to have been based not on any earlier units of administration either secular or ecclesiastical (other than the parish) but on the need to create a streamlined, compact and localised system of supervision adapted to meet the changing needs of society. Both crown and church in 1581 agreed that no 'formal order' could be achieved until 'the ancient bounds of the Diocies be dissolved, where the parishes are thick together, and small be united; and where they are too great and large bounds, be divided, and thereafter Presbyteries or Elderships constituted for a dozen of parishes or thereabout, some moe, some fewer, as the commodity of the Countrey lyeth, where the Ministrie and Elders in these bounds conveening may commodiously exercise Ecclesiastical Discipline, and take order with affairs of the Kirk'. The large and populous parish of St Ninians near Stirling was earmarked for division, though this was not so readily effected. Besides, the presbytery still lacked its complement of constituent churches.²

Although one of the ministers of Dunblane had attended the presbytery's inaugural meeting and took his place as a member, the other minister of the city – Bishop Andrew Graham – seems only to have been present as a commissioner from the assembly for erecting the presbytery and was accordingly admonished, along with the ministers of Aberfoyle and Kilbride, at the presbytery's second meeting in August to give attendance 'becaus thai ar appointit be

¹ See below, 1, 4-5, 8, 23; Kirk, *Second Book of Discipline*, 192

² Kirk, *Second Book of Discipline*, 199; BUK, ii, 484 (where Stirling is mistakenly omitted from the list of 24 churches); Calderwood, *History*, viii, 36; see below, xlii

the generall ordur to be under the jurisdiction thair of'. Bishop Graham's disinclination to sit as a member of Stirling presbytery arose not from any distaste on his part for presbyteries – he had, after all, submitted to the assembly and accepted its programme – but from his desire to inaugurate a separate presbytery of Dunblane. Supported by several dissenting presbytery members from the area of Dunblane, Graham chose to appeal from the presbytery's judgment (albeit in an unsuccessful bid) to the general assembly where the dispute was first noted in October 1581. The ground for their dissent was that when they had taken part at the request of king and kirk 'with uthir brethrein and gentilmen' in determining how the 'ordour of union and divisioun of the kirkis and erectioun of the presbyteriis' might take effect, they had not intended their assistance to imply their assent to becoming members of Stirling presbytery, especially since, as they contended, 'we haif a presbytery of our awin erectit of a lang tyme past in Dunblane be the ordur approvit be the generall kirk affair our visitour standand undischairgit, our assembleis and conventionis mentenid, our exerceis haldin and keipit and the materis of our kirk intreattid'.¹ Such was the affinity between the duties already undertaken by the exercise and those assumed by the presbytery in 1581 that the ministers of Dunblane could readily mistake their exercise for a presbytery. In any event, once established, presbyteries simply absorbed the functions of the exercise; and at its inaugural meeting Stirling presbytery made due provision for holding the exercise for scriptural exegesis as a regular and integral part of its proceedings. At the same session, a candidate for presbytery clerk was forthcoming in James Duncanson, reader at Stirling, and the moderator was then elected by the votes of the presbytery members to serve for a half-yearly term from the meeting of one provincial synod till the next.²

Authority and jurisdiction: Although disposed to concur with the church in setting up presbyteries, the crown was disinclined to lend its support to the assembly's condemnation of diocesan episcopacy. The assembly might readily remove the existing bishops from episcopal administration but it did not so readily succeed in

¹ See below, 1–6, 12–18, 59; BUK, ii, 524

² See below, 2

preventing fresh nominations by the crown to vacant bishoprics, for even where the church declined to operate the machinery for episcopal appointments, set up in 1572, the crown could still promote a titular bishop to possess the revenues of the title and to sit in parliament. The issue directly affected the presbytery, from its inception, when the government, in effect, accepted the assembly's challenge and nominated Robert Montgomery, minister of Stirling and one of the presbytery's founders, to the vacant archbishopric of Glasgow. A licence to elect James Boyd's successor to the vacant see had been issued in August 1581, and by October Montgomery had been granted provision by the crown. When the chapter of ministers declined to elect the crown's nominee, the privy council declared that the bishopric had fallen to the crown for disposal. The courts of the church retorted by threatening to excommunicate the new archbishop and although forbidden by the crown to proceed against him, the assembly in April 1582 finally declared Montgomery deposed and excommunicated. Undeterred, Montgomery raised an action against the presbytery of Glasgow, and the privy council declared his excommunication to be null and void.¹

The matter first came before the presbytery in September 1581 when Montgomery's absence from his parish and his reputed 'negligence in his office bayth in doctrine and disceplein' were promptly censured. Unimpressed by his letter which appeared 'to accuse utheris rather than to excuse him self', the presbytery ordered Montgomery to compare in October before the synod of Lothian (in whose province Stirling then lay with the presbyteries of Linlithgow, Edinburgh and Dalkeith). With the general assembly's intervention in October, the king sought to delay proceedings against the aspiring archbishop but the assembly nonetheless went ahead to investigate, in his absence, sixteen accusations against the archbishop, who, it was said, not only 'denyed that in the New Testament any mentioun was made of the presbyterie or Elderschip', but also 'to prove the corrupt estate of Bischops in our tyme, he broght foorth the examples of Ambrose and Augustine'. After commanding him to remain as minister of Stirling and to decline the

¹ D. E. R. Watt, *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae Medii Aevi ad annum 1638* (Scottish Record Society, 1969), 151; *RPC*, iii, 474-7, 496-7; *BUK*, ii, 524-5, 528-9, 533-4, 542, 543-4, 546-7, 558-66, 571-5, 583

archbishopric on pain of excommunication, the assembly granted the presbytery a commission to examine Montgomery further and to submit its report to the synod of Lothian.¹

Turning from defence to attack, Montgomery complained to the presbytery that he 'was nocht bruthurlie nor cheritable handillit', and he declined to give 'ane plaine answer' to the town council's inquiry about whether or not he would remain as minister. Only belatedly was he persuaded to give an assurance that he would continue at Stirling, at least until the next assembly met – 'and langer as the kirk wald command him' – but he evasively avoided renouncing his claim to the archbishopric on the ground that 'the mater was wechtie'. His continued failure either to remain at Stirling or to promise to decline the archbishopric led the presbytery to conclude that Montgomery had disobeyed the acts of assembly and so was liable for excommunication. Nor was the presbytery wholly satisfied with Montgomery's disarming profession that 'he meinis nocht nor will, nor sall be ony uthir bischop bot sic ane bischop as Paull teichis in his epistillis to Titus and Timothie, that is, a minister and preichour of the Word of God and promesis nevir to trublle or vex his brethrein with his admissioun to the bischoprik of Glasgw'. As a committee of the presbytery proceeded to investigate his behaviour, Montgomery, in turn, lodged a complaint against the elders of his own kirk session. For his part, however, Montgomery admitted that 'sumtymis thruch laik of memorie and negligence in his studie and awaytying on his buik' he had failed to maintain 'sic furmalitie and sensibilnes in doctrein as become him', but he denied ever to have been 'swa ovircumit with drink that his sencis faillit him'. Although he did not 'preceislie deny' lending money at a high rate of interest, he did at least accept that he should not enjoy the fruits of the archbishopric, if the church so ruled.²

Nonetheless, after hearing that Montgomery had secured letters charging the ministers of Glasgow to admit him as archbishop, the presbytery lost no time in suspending Montgomery from the ministry. Not only had the kirk session complained of their minister's 'intollarable negligence', but the presbytery itself firmly censured Montgomery's pursuit of 'warldlie effairis and ungodlie suittis

¹ See below, 6–10; *BUK*, ii, 528, 533–4, 542, 546–7

² See below, 9–10, 13–15, 17–22

of unlauchfull honouris, pre-eminence and riches expres againis the Word of God, the actis of the generall assemblie and dewatie of ane trew pastour', and it condemned his actions which, it considered, were designed 'to steir up ane lamentable schisme and trubble in the kirk of God and this commone wealthe, and to inflame the hairttis of our souverane lord and his cheif nobilitie againis his maist faythfull subjectis'. Under threat of imminent excommunication, Montgomery was summoned before the synod of Lothian in April 1582 but after failing to compear before either synod or general assembly, he was deposed from the ministry and, in June, was finally excommunicated.¹ Not only did the presbytery continue to lack its contumacious founding member, but it also faced the task of securing a replacement for Montgomery as minister of Stirling. More importantly, the Montgomery episode had turned out to be a vital trial of strength for the presbytery's newly assumed jurisdiction and competence.

Although recognition of the authority of presbyteries was withheld in statute law until 1592, the crown and privy council had acknowledged from 1581 that presbyteries possessed a jurisdiction in so wide an area as in matters affecting ecclesiastical discipline. The extent of this jurisdiction was not immediately defined – at least in the surviving acts of the general assembly – but an indication of the scope attributed to elderships or presbyteries was forthcoming in the Second Book of Discipline, which the assembly had endorsed and engrossed in its register in April 1581. The examination, ordination, admission (and, indeed, deposition) of ministers, the supervision and visitation of the parishes, the formulation of enactments and the execution of ordinances made in the higher courts, the licensing of marriage contracts, the correction of manners, and the ultimate sanction of excommunication were all understood to be functions appropriate to be discharged by presbyteries.² As early as November 1581, Stirling presbytery granted to a candidate for the ministry a testimonial of his suitability 'becaus he hes bein tryit bayth be the brethir of the exerceis of Dumfarming, as David Fargusonis teste-

¹ See below, 26–31, 35–41; BUK, ii, 558–62; *Calendar of State Papers relating to Scotland*, vi, ed. W. K. Boyd (Edinburgh, 1910), nos. 124, 130.

² Calderwood, *History*, viii, 35–6; Kirk, *Second Book of Discipline*, 179–80, 185–6, 194, 196–202, 223–4.

moniall gevin thairupon beris, and also be us bayth in exerceis and publict doctrein and fund able to proffeit the kirk of God be his doctrein'. Proof of his good character was also attested 'bayth be ane testimoniall of the gentilmen of Clakmannan quhair he dwellis and als be report of our brothur, Thomas Swintoun, send be us thair to that effect'.¹

The tendency for candidates to undergo examination at the exercise had already emerged before the erection of presbyteries, so that the assumption of this power by presbyteries from 1581 was achieved with little dislocation. In another instance, William Scott, 'allegit to be admittit minister' at Callander was required in 1582 to demonstrate his fitness by preaching before the presbytery in private, on an assigned text of scripture, 'in the minister of Strivilingis chalmir'. Although the assembly, somewhat belatedly in 1582, had instructed presbyteries to examine candidates for the ministry 'and such as they find qualified, to provyde them to kirks', there is no indication in the period before parliament's proscription of presbyteries in 1584 of the rôle which Stirling presbytery played in selecting and admitting suitably qualified ministers to parish churches. Hitherto, from 1576 much of this work had been undertaken by visitors (commissioned by the assembly) in association both with the exercise and the synod, and there are incidental references in the presbytery minutes to the duties earlier performed by the visitor in the diocese of Dunblane, including the terms of an act made by the visitor 'with the advis of the assembly present' at a visitation of Tillicoultry in July 1577.²

Once constituted, however, presbyteries were seen as the appropriate body empowered to conduct visitations; and the assembly saw fit not only to recognise in 1582 that each presbytery might select 'two or ma' of its members to act as visitors 'according to the Booke of Policie', but also to restrict the activities of its own commissioners and visitors to those areas not yet possessing presbyteries. Where presbyteries operated, therefore, the powers of commissioners and visitors of provinces were understood to have lapsed; and the assembly's appointment in October 1581 of David Lindsay, minister at Leith, as commissioner for West Lothian and Stirling-

¹ See below, 12

² See below, 68, 87; BUK, ii, 570; BUK, i, 357; see below, 3-5, 119-20

shire was apparently for the specific purpose of negotiating with the modifiers of ministers' stipends.¹

From its inception, Stirling presbytery had supervised the conduct of its ministers, readers, schoolmasters and congregations, though the first presbyterial visitation of a parish recorded in the minutes did not occur until April 1583 (some twenty months after the presbytery's creation) when the presbytery granted a commission to three of its members to visit the parish of Muthill to 'tak inquisitioun and tryell of sic thingis in that parrochun as concernis the glorie of God and weill of his kirk, and farther to travell with the congregatioun thair of and desyr thame to provyd a sufficient dwelling for Mr Alexander Chisholme, thair minister'. Somewhat earlier, in January 1582/3, the presbytery had introduced the practice whereby ministers of the parishes were obliged to produce before the presbytery for scrutiny, on a regular basis, 'thair buikis and proces of the discipline usit be thame in thair particular sessionis' so that 'ane uniform and generall ordur of disceplein may be establischt, usit and execute . . . in tymis cuming'.²

In a process somewhat akin to the procedure for admitting men to the ministry, presbyteries were encouraged to receive presentations of candidates from patrons and to grant them collation to benefices. Earlier, visitors had been recognised by the assembly in 1576 as the appropriate agents for receiving presentations and giving collation, provided they acted with the advice of the synod and exercise; and by 1580 the assembly had declared further collations by 'any pretending the style of bishops' to be wholly void. The logical sequel was the assembly's claim in 1581 that presentations be directed to presbyteries. Although this was at variance with the crown's preference for directing presentations to benefices in royal patronage to commissioners or bishops, it would be harder to demonstrate that the assembly's plans were contrary to statute law which, after all, had approved collation by superintendents 'or utheris havand commissioun of the kirk'.³ And from 1581 presbyteries, and their representatives, had received just such a commission from the church.

¹ BUK, ii, 568; Kirk, *Second Booke of Discipline*, 196-7, 223-4; BUK, ii, 537, 535-6

² See below, 11-12, 25, 31-32, 59; 118; 76-77; see also Index sub 'Ministers', 'Readers', 'Schoolmasters'

³ BUK, i, 357; ii, 419, 459, 514, 568, 602; APS, iii, 23, c. 7

Within Stirling presbytery's jurisdiction, however, no parochial benefice in the crown's patronage appears to have been disposed between 1581 and the onset of the 'Black Acts' of 1584. The presbytery was not immediately involved, therefore, in granting collation to these benefices. But an indication of the rôle which presbyteries were expected to play is apparent in 1583 when Archibald Livingston, on informing the presbytery of his provision to the parsonage of Culter, 'acknawlegit him self to be bund thairby of his dewatie to serve in the cuir of the ministrie at the kirk thair of and to the effect he may entir in the said cuir with the bettir ordur desyris the brethrein of this presbytery to gif him thair testimoniall of his lyf and conversatioun direct to the presbytery of Lainrig, in the quhilk boundis the said kirk of Culter is, that thaireftir he may be lauchfullie admittit thairto be the said presbytery of Lainrig'.¹ Provision to a parochial benefice was understood to incur an obligation on the recipient to undertake the cure of souls, and in this process the church, and more specifically the presbytery, was expected to have a say in examining the suitability of the candidates presented. Abuses such as nonresidence and pluralism were therefore roundly condemned by presbytery and general assembly alike.²

As a competitor for the kind of jurisdiction which in an episcopal system is usually exercised by a bishop or his delegate, the presbytery was seen by the assembly as competent even to examine the abilities and performance of the Leith bishops appointed since 1572. As early as 1578, the general assembly had admonished the bishops in general terms 'that they impyre not above the particular elderschips but be subject to the same' and 'that they usurp not the power of the presbytries'. More specifically, in October 1582, the assembly assigned to the presbyteries of Perth, Edinburgh, the Mearns, Dundee and Glasgow the examination of the bishops of Moray, Aberdeen, Brechin, Dunkeld and St Andrews respectively; and it committed to Stirling presbytery the trial of the bishops of Dunblane and the Isles.³ The bishops' performance in Word and sacraments, in discipline and behaviour, as well as in utilising episcopal patrimony and granting collation to benefices in defiance of acts of assembly came under the presbytery's scrutiny.

¹ See below, 177

² See below, 9, 117, 222

³ BUK, ii, 425, 593

Even before it received its commission from the assembly to investigate the bishops' activities, the presbytery had ordered Andrew Graham of Dunblane, in April 1582, to account to the general assembly 'for negligence in his office' in accordance with an act of synod; and in May, after criticising 'the lang absence of Mr Andro Grahame fra his kirk of Dunblane and negligence of his flock', the presbytery had insisted that the bishop reply to the charge. The accusations were by no means new, for Graham had a history of being less than a satisfactory bishop. His career as bishop effectively dated not so much from 1573 when the crown had first issued to the chapter its licence to elect but from 1575 when the crown confirmed his election and issued a mandate for his consecration. But although a graduate, Graham had no pastoral experience, and in 1575 the assembly, finding itself in a dilemma on discovering that 'it is not yitt decided that all bishops should be first preachers' had hastily ordered the bishop to demonstrate his aptitude for the office by preaching a sermon on Romans 5 before so many of the ministry as might be present at the Magdalene chapel in Edinburgh.¹ Thereafter, his shortcomings in performing his duties as bishop had been duly observed by the assembly from as early as 1576. Nor was this wholly unexpected, for his promotion to the bishopric had the characteristics of a dynastic appointment secured by his kinsman the Earl of Montrose, who, as Master of Graham, had earlier acquired rights to the temporalities of the bishopric during its vacancy, and who, after gaining the installation of his own candidate, obtained from the bishop a feu of the entire lands of the bishopric. Such a grant posed a potential threat to the security of the sitting 'kindly tenants' of the bishopric who successfully sought the protection of parliament in 1578 on the ground that 'ane thowsand of our soverane lordis commonis and pure people wilbe put to uter heirschip and extreme beggartie . . . quhen as sa grite rowmes quhairupoun sa mony ar sustenit salbe reducit in the handis of ane particular man'.²

These were the antecedents to the presbytery's proceedings which

¹ See below, 41, 44; Watt, *Fasti*, 78; Calderwood, *History*, iii, 341-2; BUK, i, 316, 317, 321, 325

² BUK, i, 349; *The Register of the Privy Seal of Scotland*, vi, ed. G. Donaldson (Edinburgh, 1963), nos. 590, 729; APS, iii, 111-2

commenced in December 1582 when Graham was assigned the task of making the exercise on the text of Ephesians 13, 'to the effect the brethrein may juge on his doctrein', which was considered to be both 'sound and proffitabll'. But the bishop admitted having failed to preach and exercise discipline at Dunblane for a year; he affirmed that he 'nevir gaif ony collatioun of beneficis to na persone sen his admissioun to the foirsaid bischoprie'; and he sought a postponement to answering the charge of dilapidating episcopal patrimony. The presbytery, however, found Graham's inventory of feus and tacks to be incomplete and unsatisfactory; grants of episcopal property to the Earl of Montrose and Masters of Mar and Livingston had not been entered; and it admonished Graham 'nocht to styll him self bischop in tymis cuming nather be word nor wrett'. At the same time, John Drummond of Pitkellany, on behalf of the kindly tenants of the bishopric, took the opportunity of complaining to the presbytery that Graham had 'nocht onelie to the grit hurt damage and skayth of his successuris bot alsua to the extreim hurt of us, possessuris and tennentis of the said kirk lands, sauld, delapidat and put away the haill leving of the said bischoprie or at the lest ane gret part thairof in gret menis handis by us, the saidis possessuris and kyndlie tennentis'. Another tenant with a lease of the teinds of Kinbuck protested at how the bishop had not only declined to renew her lease but 'maist ungodlie intendis to set the samin to utheris ovir hir hed'. These 'bills of complaint' seeking redress for wrongs had the intended effect of securing promises from the bishop to recognise the tenants' rights. Yet further investigations led the presbytery, by October 1583, to pronounce Graham guilty of 'negligence in doctrein and disciplein, waisting of the patrimony of the kirk, setting of takis againis the actis of the kirk'.¹

Although he promised the presbytery in January 1583/4 that he would make no further grants of episcopal property 'without the advys and consent of the brethrein of the said presbytery', Graham continued to be less than responsive in fulfilling his duties. He procrastinated when ordered to admonish the Earl of Montrose for associating with an excommunicated kinsman; he was fined for absence from the synod in April; and in May, a few days before

¹ See below, 66-74, 76-78, 82, 85-86, 88, 93-95, 97, 102, 105-6, 110-12, 155, 167, 171, 174-6

parliament banned presbyteries from meeting, the bishop was again censured for his habitual failure to preach in Dunblane during the preceding six months.¹

John Campbell, the other bishop whose activities the presbytery was required to investigate, had been promoted in 1572 to the bishopric of the Isles where clan Campbell had succeeded in extinguishing the rival claims of the Macleans of Duart. The selection of Stirling as the appropriate presbytery for examining the bishop of the Isles, 'sasone as he may be apprehendit' for 'he is nocht presentlie in thir boundis', was possibly made with an awareness of Argyll's own interests in the locality at Castle Campbell near Dollar. After he had preached a trial sermon on Ephesians 2, Campbell's doctrine was considered 'generall, aggreing with the grundis of religioun bot nocht sufficient in opning up of the sense and mening of the said text'. He claimed that he had preached and ministered at Iona until a dispute with Maclean over a feu, in March 1580/1, had forced him to return to the mainland of Argyll where he preached at Ardchattan 'oft tymis quhen he was thair'. But after arriving in the lowlands to seek redress from the king and council, he had 'preichit in na plaice' for half a year. He denied having given collation to any benefices since the assembly's act of 1580 or having dilapidated the patrimony of the bishopric (other than a confirmation of a feu to Argyll) or of the annexed abbacy of Iona (which he had resigned in favour of Alexander, his son). The presbytery nonetheless warned him 'nocht to styll him self bischop, nor lord, in in tymis cuming'. Witnesses duly summoned to give evidence included Argyll, Campbell of Ardkinglass and Maclean of Duart. Even Glasgow presbytery was consulted. Yet nothing 'bot honestie' could be found in the bishop's behaviour, and the presbytery absolved him from all charges 'excep the disjunctioun and separatioun of the abbacie of Ycolumkill fra the bischoprik of the Yllis laitie procurit be the said Mr Johnne as als ane confirmatioun gevin be him to the Erll of Argyll'.²

The disciplining of negligent ministers and readers, as well as bishops, also occupied the presbytery's attention. James Dalmahoy, minister of Cambuskenneth, was duly censured by the presbytery in

¹ See below, 185, 194-5, 208-10, 215-18

² Watt, *Fasti*: 206; see below, 66-67, 78-80, 82-84, 103-5, 112, 146-9, 164-5

1581 for marrying (despite an objection being voiced) a couple who did not even belong to his parish, 'without testemoniall or lycence of the elderschip'. In another instance, he had conducted the marriage of a woman whose first marriage remained undissolved. Other irregular marriages, including one which he had solemnised at six o'clock in the morning, were brought to the presbytery's attention. His approach to ministering the sacrament of baptism was equally lax. He admitted baptising in a barn 'becaus of the foull wathir', and was said to have received payment for baptisms and marriages. The presbytery had therefore no hesitation in deposing him from the ministry.¹ In 1583, a reader was suspended by the presbytery for officiating at the marriage of a woman who was not his parishioner and whom he knew to have been 'divorcit fra hir first husband for adultrie'. Another reader, whom the presbytery censured for usurping the minister's office, was understood 'to have abusit the sacrament of baptisme and mariage in ministratioun of thame without ony lauchfall admissioun thairto in wret'. After he underwent examination by being assigned 'ane chaptur in the New Testament and commandit to reid the same and eftir reiding of ane portioun thair of thair was gevin to him twa prayeris in the psalme buik to reid', the presbytery soon concluded that the candidate 'can nocht proffeit the kirk of God be his reiding becaus he reidis nocht distinctlie, keipis na point in his reiding nor understandis nocht quhat he reidis', and so deposed him from all office in the ministry. An 'allegit reder' at Lecropt, who baptised a child 'abusitlie in ane prophane hous in the Latein langage', was also deemed by the presbytery to have been 'nocht lauchfullie admitted to ministrat baptisme in the kirk of God' and was accordingly deposed 'fra reiding in the kirk of God and all functioun thair of . . . at all tymis'. The presbytery even felt it necessary to report the case to the king for secular punishment, but found it harder to determine whether the child 'salbe haldin as lauchfullie baptezit or nocht'.²

A minister of Clackmannan, who 'fengzeit in his speikin sayand now that he hes nocht ane buik of disceplein quhilk befor he confessit to have hade' and who appeared to have torn out some written evidence 'quhilk appeiris to the brethrein to be varie

¹ See below, 11-12, 19, 44, 47-48, 50-51

² See below, 88-89, 91, 96-97, 101-2; 118, 123-4, 141, 172-3; 127-8, 130-1

suspicius', was convicted by the presbytery of 'selling of the sacramentis and utheris benefeittis of the kirk' and so was suspended from the ministry in 1583.¹ In another instance, a minister who had permitted bridals, banquets and the playing of pipes during a period of general fast was fined by the presbytery and ordered to make public repentance in his own parish church; and aware of the 'grit abuse and superstitioun usit be sindrie personis that cumis to parroche kirkis to be mareit in causing pyperis and fidlayeris play befor thame to the kirk and fra the kirk, to the grit dishonour of God', the presbytery proceeded to prohibit all such ceremonies and to insist that couples 'cum to the kirk reverentlie as becumis thame without ony playing'.² More mysterious was the presbytery's investigation into whether Alexander Mure, a minister who had officiated at the laird of Tulliallan's marriage, was 'musellit or ony wayis disgysit the tyme he mareit him'. The laird maintained that the 'minister was na manir of way disgysit on his faice nor utherwayis the tyme of the said mariage bot was honestlie claid in blak as becumis ane minister'. Yet the presbytery still sought the depositions of witnesses who testified that the marriage had taken place on St Lawrence's day 1581 'be ane honest lyk man cled lyk ane minister, with ane taffety hatt, quhais name thai knew nocht, undisguysit on faice or utherwayis', with which the presbytery declared itself satisfied.³

In an effort to regulate and standardize disciplinary procedures in the parishes, the presbytery had undertaken to inspect the 'books of discipline' or registers of disciplinary cases kept by ministers and kirk sessions; and by 1583 it was 'statute and ordeinit' that these records should include a list of all marriages, baptisms and alms collected and distributed to the poor, and that inspections of the books should take place twice-yearly.⁴ In a similar manner, the exercise for interpreting scripture, which formed an initial part of presbytery meetings and which might take place in public before an assembled congregation or in private behind the closed doors of the session house, had an important rôle to play not only in examining prospective ministers and in increasing educational standards among ministers, but also in maintaining a uniformity in doctrine.

At each weekly meeting of the exercise, one minister was ex-

¹ See below, 134, 142

² See below, 196-7, 199

³ See below, 190-2

⁴ See below, 76-77, 88, 102, 106, 224, 253

pected to preach on an assigned text and another then undertook to make some practical observations on the first speaker's exposition. In December 1581, the presbytery had ordered the schoolmaster and reader at Dunblane to attend the exercise at Stirling and by 1582 'the haille ministeris of the elderschip and brethir of exerceis' agreed to impose fines on absent members to ensure regular attendance. A list of the members discloses the names of 16 ministers, exhorters and readers, the schoolmasters of Stirling and Strageith, and the commissary of Dunblane; but there was noticeably no word of the participation on the exercise of the presbytery elders, whose names appear only on the sederunts of the presbytery meetings.¹ The presence at the exercise of schoolmasters, however, was consistent with the Second Book of Discipline's definition of the doctor's duty 'to oppine up be simple teaching the mystereis of the fayth' and with its recognition that the doctor's, or teacher's, office comprehended 'the ordour of scoles'. Thus, from 1583, Alexander Yule, the Stirling grammar schoolmaster, was generally distinguished in the sederunts as 'ane brothur of exerceis' from the rest of the elders who attended presbytery meetings, though he was nonetheless recognised as an elder; and all this was also in keeping with the Second Book of Discipline's claim that 'the doctour being ane eldar, as said is, sould assist the pasture in the government of the kirk and concurre with the uther eldaris, his brethrene, in all assembleis'.²

Once the exercise had been held, the ministers, teachers and elders retired to a separate part of the church where the presbytery, formally constituted as an ecclesiastical court, assumed responsibility for governing the constituent parishes. From the outset, elders of the presbytery showed a readiness to attend meetings on a regular basis. Their members included such elders from Stirling kirk session as Adam Erskine, the lay commendator of Cambuskenneth abbey, Humphrey Cunningham and James Pont, the commissaries of Stirling and Dunblane respectively, John Laing, possibly the maltman burgess of that name, Robert Alexander, a bailie, and William Norwall, the burgh's treasurer. From St Ninians came two lairds,

¹ See below, 18, 21-23; see also Index *sub* 'Exercise'

² Kirk, *Second Book of Discipline*, 187-8; see below, 77, 79, 85, 88-89, 94-95, 98, 100, 102, 106, 110 ('ane brothur of exerceis'); 66, 69, 72, 74, 90 (elder); Kirk, *Second Book of Discipline*, 189

Alexander Forester of Garden and Duncan Nairn of Torbrev, and Alexander Paterson, a notary in Corspatrick. Adam Spittle of Blairlogie and James Alexander in Mains represented the parish of Logie across the Forth to the north of Stirling. There are few signs, however, of the attendance of the elders from Alva, Fossoway, Glendevon or Muckhart, who had accepted office for life.¹

Even so, at some of the earlier meetings of the presbytery, the number of elders present exceeded that of the ministers. Yet, by 1582, in replying to 'certaine doubts proponit concerning the presbyteries', the general assembly expressed the view that 'the number of such as are associat to the elderschip for discipline and correctioun of maners, that are not pastours nor doctours, quho travell not in the Word, be not in equall number with uthers, but fewar; the proportioun as the necessitie of the elderschip craves'. Nor was this all, for the assembly also observed that in future the presence of elders in presbyteries 'salbe no further straitit, but as the weghtines and occasioun, upon intimatioun and advertisement made be the pastours and doctours, sall requyre; at quhilk tyme they sall give thair godlie concurrence; exhorting them alwayes that may commodiouslie resort, to be present at all tymes'.² Thereafter, the elders' attendance at presbytery meetings seems somewhat to have dwindled, though a few were usually still present until Archbishop Adamson's criticism – that the presbytery 'appointed of gentlemen lords of the ground, and others associat with the ministers, is no other thing but to induce a great confusion in the kirk, and an occasioun of continuall sedition' – helped to supply Arran's government with the ammunition which it needed to abolish presbyteries by act of parliament in May 1584.³ With the resumption of the presbytery's meeting in June 1586, well after Arran's downfall, elders ceased to attend in the period covered by this volume, though schoolmasters continued their association with the presbytery.⁴

Although the Second Book of Discipline had attacked 'the mingled jurisdictioun' of the commissary courts 'in sofar as thay

¹ See below, I, 4-5, 8, 23; see also Index *sub* individual names

² See below, e.g., 17; BUK, ii, 567

³ Calderwood, *History*, iv, 54; APS, iii, 293

⁴ See below, e.g., 220-2, 225, 228-36, 253

mell with ecclesiasticall maters', the participation of the commissaries of Stirling and Dunblane as elders of the presbytery is significant, for not only were they accustomed in their own courts to hear cases concerning testaments and teinds and suits arising from deeds which they had registered, but their forensic skills had also a relevance to the legal proceedings of the presbytery.¹

Local commissaries, however, were denied a jurisdiction in matrimonial causes which exclusively pertained to the commissary court of Edinburgh, which, as the presbytery records disclose, might still authorise a local commissary to proceed in hearing an action of divorce.² At the same time, the presbytery also claimed a certain competence in actions relating to marriage contracts, adherence and separation.

Before marriage could be solemnized (which the presbytery required should take place in church on a preaching day, witnessed by the assembled congregation), the parties had first to express their consent to contract marriage, and their banns, indicating their intention to marry, had to be proclaimed on three successive Sundays in the parishes where they resided so that anyone with knowledge of an impediment to their marriage might voice an objection.³ When one couple complained in 1587 that their minister had declined to marry them, even though they had 'confessit mutuall promeis of mariage', the presbytery discovered that after their banns had first been called, the laird of Gargunnoch, 'heritur of the land' where the girl's father had dwelt, had voiced an objection as her appointed tutor on the ground that her prospective husband was 'ane mane that hes na gair and als he spendit all that he hade' whereas the girl had received 'ane rassonabill portione of gair left to hir be hir father'. The daughter claimed, however, that 'becaus scho was of perfyte aige, viz., of xx yeir or thairby' she was 'fre to marie' whom she chose and was 'nocht bund to abyde be ony of hir freindis consent'. The couple also 'confessit that thay hade carnall copulatione togethir', but appeared to be penitent 'eftir the moderatour hade thratnit the jugementis of God'. In giving judgment, the presbytery rejected the laird's objection as 'na thing relivant' and

¹ Kirk, *Second Book of Discipline*, 228; see below, 1; see also Index sub 'Cunningham, Humphrey' and 'Pont, James'

² See below, 91

³ See below, 5, 67, 125, 142

ordered marriage to proceed after the couple had made public repentance.¹

Failure to fulfil the promise to contract marriage also gave rise to disputes which came before the presbytery for resolution. A woman who failed 'to schaw and declair ane ressonablle caus quhy scho will nocht compleit mariage according to ane matrimoniale contract' after she was 'contractit in mariage with consent of hir parentis', was judged by the presbytery in 1583 to be 'inconstant in passing fra the promeis of mariage quhilk scho haid made', and her father was likewise censured for 'approving hir passing thairfra againis his awin formar consent to the said promeis'. In passing sentence, the presbytery ordered the woman to make public repentance, and it fined her father £10 to be devoted to the decoration of their parish church of Clackmannan. In another case, in 1587, when the presbytery inquired 'quhy mariage is nocht desyrit to be solemnizit', the mother of the betrothed girl, replying that she had sought a delay in the proceedings, explained that she 'could nocht gait thingis necisar for hir dochteris mariage nor banquet as yit', but after the presbytery had urged a day to be named for the marriage, the family then 'cancellat and destroyit the matrimoniale contract', which led the presbytery to declare the girl's fiancé 'frie to marie in the Lord', and to discipline both mother and daughter 'for sclandering of the kirk'.²

The ability to prove the validity of a marriage had not inconsiderable legal implications. Authentication might readily be obtained by witnesses and perhaps also by a notary or by an entry in the registers of marriages which ministers were exhorted to keep. In 1581, proof of a couple's alleged marriage was sought from Edinburgh kirk session, and the presbytery soon elicited from the parties that there was merely 'promeis of mariage betuix thame and thair bannis lauchfullie proclamit bot was nocht mareit as yit'. The right of legitimate heirs to inherit property was the reason for a petition in 1584 from two sons who wished to establish the legality of their parents' marriage contracted 'of auld in tyme of papistrie' and held 'in ane hous privallie be ane preist in presens of certane witnessis' who had since died. The presbytery acceded to their request that the minister of the parish should receive from the parents a statement of the validity of their marriage before the congregation and, if no

¹ See below, 240-1, 243-4

² See below, 123, 125-6; 248-9, 252-5, 261-4

impediment were raised, that the minister should solemnize the 'band of matremony of new betuix thame according to the ordur reformat'.¹

The detection of clandestine or irregular marriages also fell within the presbytery's competence. Thus, in 1584, the presbytery sought to determine whether a laird who had divorced his wife and then remarried was 'lauchfullie mareit'. The laird, however, was able to prove that the banns had been publicly proclaimed in church and that the marriage had been held in church before 'ane lairge numbir of honest personis of the parrochun, men and wemen'; and although he could not recall 'gif the day of his mariage was on ane Sunday or nocht', he was able to produce the minister's written testimonial of the marriage and also witnesses of the proceedings. The presbytery therefore found the marriage 'deulie varefeit'.²

Promise of marriage followed by cohabitation was also regarded by the presbytery as irregular but not as invalid. An illustration that the presbytery was prepared to concede that cohabitation with habit and repute constituted marriage occurred in 1582 when the presbytery took cognisance in a case where it was claimed that thirteen years earlier 'on ane fasternisevin at nycht eftir supper' in presence of a reader and witnesses, a couple had 'promesit mutuallie to compleit mariage on Sunday immediatelic eftir the fest of peace'. They had then cohabited 'dyveris yeiris' and had 'ane bairne'. But when the man, after separating, claimed that he had promised to marry another and wished his banns to be proclaimed, the presbytery ordered him 'to separet him self in societie' from the second woman, accused him of adultery, and, in view of 'the first woman refusand to persew the said mane for his first promeis made to hir', sought the synod's advice 'quhethir gif he may lauchfullie marie the second woman; gif nocht gif he and the first woman salbe compellit to compleit and solemneiz mariage according to thair first promeis'. The synod's short reply was that 'the second mariage stayis and urge for adherence of the first'. Nonetheless, in another case, in 1586 when a man had 'continewit lang in cumpany' with a woman 'to the grit offence of God and sclandir of his kirk', the presbytery required not only his repentance and his promise to complete marriage but also that caution be acted in the commissary

¹ See below, 19-20, 30-31, 34; 227-8

² See below, 196-7, 199

court. A marriage duly contracted and lawfully solemnized, but never consummated, was still regarded as valid by the presbytery.¹

Actions relating to adherence also came within the presbytery's jurisdiction. With the Reformation, the law relating to adherence and divorce had undergone modification, first, with the acceptance of divorce *a vinculo* for adultery, and then, in 1573, with the statutory recognition of divorce for desertion. A pursuer might therefore raise an action of adherence in the commissary courts, then seek from the court of session letters of horning against the offender, and might also apply to the presbytery for appropriate ecclesiastical proceedings in the expectation of raising an action of divorce in the commissary court if the offender continued obdurate. When a litigant complained in 1582 that 'hir husband wald nocht ressave hir in hous with him and interteny hir as becumis him to do to his wyf', the presbytery ordered the husband to 'interteny hir as becumis him of Goddis law to do to his wyf or ellis to schaw ane ressonable caus quhy'. Recognizing that an obstacle to reconciliation existed in the litigant's admission that 'scho was deforcit againis hir will be ane man quhome scho knawis nocht and hade borne ane bairne to him', the presbytery gave the husband the choice of adherence to his spouse 'or ellis to intent actioun of divorcement againis hir befor the commissaris of Edinburgh'. In another case, the presbytery insisted that a husband receive 'his spous agane in hous with him and intertenis hir as Godis law prescryvis and nocht to put hir fra him agane undir the paine of excommunicatioun'.²

The church's objection to the marriage of guilty parties in divorce cases led the presbytery in 1583 to declare invalid a marriage by a reader of the guilty parties in a divorce. Yet, elsewhere, the presbytery was prepared to approve a second marriage by a penitent adulterer in 1583 who had not been divorced but who was recognized 'to be fre' because of 'the departing of his wyf'. The presumption of death after the prolonged absence of a spouse was an issue on which the presbytery was reluctant to act. In one case, where a woman had presumed the death of her husband 'quha departit fra hir to Flandiris to the weris, thre yeir syne or thairby, and as scho is credable informit allegis him ded thair ane yeir or mair syne', the

¹ See below, 64, 89-90; 108-9; 226-7; 160

² See below, 32; 32-33, 35, 41; 55-56, 58

presbytery could find 'na sufficient testimony of the deathe of hir said husband'. Another defendant's claim that 'he is trewlie informit' that his wife had 'departit furth of this lyf in Ingland lang befor' left the presbytery with the perplexing problem of whether his 'fault be adultrie or fornicatioun'.¹

Paternity cases were also heard by the presbytery so that the father might be made responsible for the child's welfare. In 1584, the presbytery sought to establish the identity of the father of a child by interrogating the mother and suspected father, and by examining the evidence of the midwife and witnesses 'insafar as thai knaw'. When a parishioner of Lecropt in 1586 declined to have a child baptised 'becaus it was nocht his', the presbytery ordered him 'ather to intent actione of devorcement befor the juge ordinar againis his said spous for gaitting of the said bairne in adultrie and thairby to pruiif hir ane hure, or ellis acknowlege and confes the said bairne to be his awin', though the matter was finally resolved when his wife 'deponit be hir grit aythe' that he was the child's father. The discovery of a 'fundlein bairne', an abandoned 'mane chylde fund on ane gait syd quhilk passis up fra the fut of Marie wynd to the castell of Striviling', who had been fostered but not baptised, led the presbytery to order Stirling kirk session to admonish the foster father 'to teiche the said bairne the sowme of ane Christiane fayth, viz., the xij articillis of the beleif that he mycht gif ane confessioun thair of the tyme he ressavit the sacrament of baptisme'.²

The expectation that an offender should 'confesse his sinne' to the church and recognise that 'he hath offended God and what slander he hath raised in the Kirk' gave rise to the exercise of an exceedingly wide ecclesiastical jurisdiction. The presbytery considered itself competent to take cognisance in cases involving homicide or manslaughter, and slander or defamation, as well as the more obviously ecclesiastical issues of recusancy and nonconformity, blasphemy, fornication, adultery and incest, profanation of the Sabbath by dancing or by holding markets, and the 'superstitious abuses' of clerk plays, midsummer bonfires, and pilgrimages to Christ's well, where the sick and afflicted sought cures for their maladies.³ Regulations for the administration of the two sacraments

¹ See below, 1, 91, 96; 142; 182; 202

² See below, 214; 225-6, 228; 87

³ Cameron, *First Book of Discipline*, 168; see below, 38; and Index, *sub* subjects

of baptism and the Lord's Supper (the latter of which the presbytery insisted ought not to be administered at Easter or during Lent), for the observance of general fasts, as well as subscription to the Negative or King's Confession of Faith of 1581 were also enforced.¹

In the case of homicide, the presbytery remitted ecclesiastical censure and sentence to the synod when 'a man slayer' in 1583 confessed that he was 'sorie fra his hairt and hes obteneit remissione fra the kingis majestie and hes satisfieit the partie thairfor'. An action of defamation, or 'bill of slander', brought before the presbytery in 1587 by one woman against another who had claimed that the pursuer had 'tane away the milk fra hir fatheris cow be wichcraft' resulted in the presbytery's finding the accused guilty of slander 'in calling hir ane wiche, in effect, quhilk scho could nawayis preive to be of varetie'. Slander of a different sort was evident in 1584 when the presbytery heard that 'ane sclandir is rissin in this toun thruch Mr William Moresone, allegeand that he sould have spokin sclanderuslie againis the trew religioun of Jesus Christ professit in Scotland to the grit hinderance of Godis glorie and discomfort of the faithfull'.²

The problem of Roman Catholic recusancy took various forms. At one level, there existed a simple piety, less overtly Catholic, but nonetheless associated with older beliefs and such traditional practices, steeped in folk lore, as the veneration of shrines and pilgrimages to Christ's well whose water was reputed to heal diseases. In 1581, and again in 1583, the presbytery investigated the 'gret abuse usit be the rascall sort of pepill that passis in pilgrimage to Chrystis woll and usis gret idolatrie or superstitioun thairat expres againis Godis law'. A pilgrim seeking a cure described how he 'sat down on his kneis and prayit, and drank of the woll and cust waltir on his hed and wosche his hed and breist' and then left behind a piece of clothing at the well. A woman with 'the meigroun in hir hed' and another with 'seiknes at hir hairt and ane sairnes that was in hir arme' performed similar ceremonies. One also claimed that she had 'past to Chrystis woll becaus hir foirbearis past thair', and another with a sick boy 'belevit that be the waschein of the bairne with the waltir of the said woll, he sould ather dee or live'. The cult seems

¹ See below, 99, 224; 44, 178, 190-1, 295-6; 5, 203; see also Index Sub 'Baptism', 'Communion', 'Fasts' and 'Confession of Faith'

² See below, 174; 247, 249-50; 204

to have attracted more women than men, though one man admitted to visiting the well on behalf of his sick mother 'bot allegit that quhowson he saw the said woll he belevit weill thair was na help to his mothur to be gottin thair'. In pronouncing its verdict, an unsympathetic presbytery concluded 'his mothur to have bein deliberat in mynd to have committit idolatrie and superstitioun at the said woll' and sentenced both to the social sanction of making public repentance in church.¹

Catholic gentry who might seek to protect co-religionists in their midst and so revive Catholic worship were challenged by the presbytery to yield to its uncompromising claims. In 1584, Alexander Livingston of Terrintirran, his daughter-in-law (a Graham), and some of his servants were ordered on pain of excommunication to account for their failure to receive communion at Kippen parish kirk, and were admonished by the moderator 'that thai be nawayis absent fra the said sacrament quhen it is ministrat in thair awin parroche kirk in tymis cuming'. Unchecked, such backsliding might end in recusancy. More serious, however, was the behaviour of Walter Buchanan, the laird of Arnprior's brother, whom the presbytery heard had 'newlie returnit with ane Flemis woman, allegit to be his wyf, furth of cuntreis quhair papistrie is publictlie professit and authoresit be sword and fyr, speciallie the cuntreis of Spaine and Flanderis'. As he had 'at na tyme repairit to preiching nor prayeris' since arriving in Stirling, Buchanan was required to provide the presbytery in December 1586 with 'ane confessione and declaratioun of his fayth and religione'.²

The case well illustrates both the strength and weakness of the presbytery's position. Although his brother-in-law, Alexander Seton of Gargunnoch, 'ane godlie mane and weill reportit of', persuaded the presbytery to delay its proceedings for a spell, Buchanan had still to confer with the minister of Stirling who failed to secure his conformity, for he claimed as his 'warldlie excuis that he could nocht subscriyve to our religione presentlie nor yit publictlie profes the samin, to wit, becaus the samin will be the tinsall of his wyffis heritage and leving, quhilk scho hade in Flanderis, and thairfor quhill he hade tane sum ordur thairanent he could nawayis

¹ See below, 4, 115-16, 120, 128, 130, 132-6, 139-40, 144, 147, 149-51, 154-5, 161

² See below, 167, 170, 205, 208-9; 234-5

imbraice our religione'. When Robert Buchanan of Leny sought a further adjournment as the culprit 'hade bot varie laitlie sein the said confessione of fayth and thairfor was nocht weill advysit thairwith', the presbytery agreed, 'willing rather to win the said Waltir than to los him'. Further delays ensued, month by month, as the presbytery exhorted him to 'frequent the kirk in tyme of service, speciallie in tyme of preichein' (which he failed so to do, professedly because 'thais pairttis of Kippen quhair he dwellis is undir sic feir of brokin heland men') until in April 1587 the presbytery, its patience almost exhausted, threatened to excommunicate him 'as ane papeist refusar to profes our religione, agreing with the Word of God'. Undeterred, he declined even to have his child baptised 'according to the ordur approvit be the reformat kirk of Scotland'. His empty promise 'to depart schortlie furth of this cuntrie' delayed the final sentence of excommunication till 1588 when the presbytery declared him 'obstinat and indurit in papistrie'. Action was also taken against his brother, the laird of Arnprior, who had 'declairit him self in sindrie partis to be ane papeist and hes rassonit for defence of the heresie thairof'.¹ By then, however, fears of a counter-Reformation had reached new heights as the Armada crisis threatened England.

There is, however, little indication in the presbytery records of the detection of lay recusants in the burgh of Stirling itself. When a tailor was remitted from the kirk session to the presbytery for trial, the minister and grammar schoolmaster of Stirling had discussions with him 'anent the cheiff heddiss of religioun' but it was soon discovered that 'he willinglie aggreit with all heddiss of the trew religioun of Jesus Christ professit in Scotland and (as appeirit to thame) he was nocht obstinat and that the wordis that he had spokin in menteinance of the mes was mair of ignorance nor uthirwayis'. Nonetheless, the presbytery insisted in 1584 that he subscribe the Negative Confession of Faith and that he 'rys on his feir' before the congregation of Stirling to 'confes that he hes offendit God in geving of his corporall presens to the mes in France and in speiking in this toun in menteinance thairof, and that he publictlie dam the samin and all papistrie in generall'. In 1583, however, Robert Veich, 'sumtym gwarden of the Gray freiris in

¹ See below, 235-43, 245-7, 250, 256, 260-1, 265-6, 284-5, 299, 305-7, 310-11; 300, 306

Striviling', who had failed to compear before the synod to give 'ane confessioun of his fayth and religioun' and to be disciplined 'for his formar abuis' was ordered to find surety, from a goldsmith who acted as cautioner, that he would appear before the general assembly; but on finding that 'na obedience was offrit be the said freir', the presbytery, after four admonitions, passed sentence of excommunication. Three inhabitants of Dunblane were also excommunicated 'for nonrecantatioun of the papisticall religioun', a sentence which the presbytery thought advisable to reaffirm in 1584 'incaice the commone pepill pretend ignorance thairof'.¹

A further threat was perceived in the crown's rehabilitation in 1587 (albeit merely for two years) of William Chisholm, Andrew Graham's Roman Catholic predecessor as bishop of Dunblane, to the neglect of Graham's own title to the see. On hearing of his recent return from France, the presbytery immediately censured Chisholm as one 'quha is notourlie knawin to be ane papeist and ennemie to the reformat religion' and threatened him with excommunication for his 'continuance in that corruptit religion of papistrie repugnant to the Word of God'. When the commendator of Inchaffray and Chisholm of Cromlix excused the bishop's failure to face the presbytery on the ground that the 'bischoop haid ane disais fallin in his leg quhairthrow he mycht nawayis travell', the presbytery thoughtfully responded by sending a deputation to meet the bishop at Inchaffray, 'gif he can be personallie apprehendit', but the bishop declined to be interviewed, and only on the king's direct intervention, in January 1587/8, was the sentence of excommunication delayed until the next general assembly in February insisted that it be pronounced and intimated in all the churches of the presbyteries of Stirling and Dunblane.²

The resort to excommunication, as the final ecclesiastical sanction, is a measure of the church's failures, not its successes. Yet excommunication carried with it penalties which even the proudest contemner could ill afford to disregard; hence the readiness of some 'to satisfie the kirk' and be absolved from the sentence. Deprived of all benefits of the kirk, the excommunicant was deemed a social outcast, and the presbytery was vigilant in disciplining any who

¹ See below, 200, 202-3; 176-8, 180, 183, 185, 187-9, 199-200; 206

² See below, 294-5, 301-8

attempted to associate with those whom it had cut off from the society of the church. The Countess of Menteith, a notary and several inhabitants of Stirling were censured for socialising with Robert Montgomery, the excommunicated archbishop. Indeed, a special licence had first to be obtained before an excommunicant might be lawfully approached. In 1583, the brother of an excommunicant received a dispensation from the presbytery to confer with him 'for calling of him fra that damnable idolatrie' and to provide him with 'neciseris to his awin chalmir allanirle'; but in renewing the licence in 1584 the presbytery insisted that he be accompanied by 'ane minister and ane elder' on future visits. Inter-presbyterial communications also made it hard for excommunicants to escape from their disabilities by moving from one locality to another. On being informed by Edinburgh presbytery in 1584 of David Graham of Fintry's excommunication 'for his feirfull apostacie' by the minister of Dundee, the presbytery took action against the Earl of Montrose and the Chisholms of Cromlix for befriending Fintry after he had been excommunicated.¹

In theory, if not always in practice, excommunication was understood to have the concurrent secular sanction of outlawry; and the presbytery in 1583, hearing that the king had 'promesit to the kirk to puneis all excommunicat personis civille according to the lawis', ordered the names of all excommunicants to be reported in accordance with an act of the general assembly. Invocation of the secular arm in support of the ecclesiastical – reaffirmed most recently in the Second Book of Discipline's claim that 'cheiflie and namelie Christiane princes, kingis and uther magistrates' had a paramount duty 'to assist and fortifie the godlie proceeding of the kirk' – had an application in the presbytery's work. The authority of both crown and parliament was sought, where necessary, to reinforce the jurisdiction of the ecclesiastical courts. In 1582, the presbytery took action so 'that the kingis majestie mycht be advertesit of thair unreverent handling' by Robert Montgomery; and in 1583 the recent act of parliament against pilgrimages was invoked for punishing pilgrims to Christ's well. In the localities, the powers and prestige of nobles and lairds, as lesser magistrates, were called upon

¹ See below, 36; 252, 258; 147, 154, 166; 46, 48, 50-52, 83, 152-4, 158, 161-2; 168-9, 179-80, 219-20; 113; 200, 207, 209-11. See also Index *sub* 'Excommunication'

to ensure that the presbytery's wishes were heeded. Lord Down, as steward of Menteith, was urged to punish certain offenders; and, to the presbytery's evident satisfaction, 'the laird of Cars, barroun of the barrony of Alvayth made actis in his court that na mane sould hant' the company of an excommunicant. Sometimes the 'godly magistrate' needed reminding of his duties. In 1584, the Earl of Montrose was exhorted not to receive certain 'freindis, tennentis or servandis' whom the church had excommunicated; otherwise, as the presbytery pointedly explained, 'we can nocht of our dewatie bot pres his lordschip with disceplein thairfoir'. The burgh magistrates, a few of whom conveniently sat as presbytery elders, were also expected to lend their weight by enforcing the presbytery's decrees. In 1582, the presbytery reported an offender to 'the civill magistrattis, viz., to the provest and bailleis of Striviling . . . desyring thame to adjone thair auctoritie to the auctoritie of the kirk in punesing'.¹

The rôles of minister and magistrate, correctly exercised, were seen to be complementary, not contradictory, but the church's early awareness of 'the faults which the civill sword either doth neglect or not punish' had strengthened its claims to assume an autonomous jurisdiction, in which the presbytery had power to 'statute and ordain' enactments and deliver sentences without experiencing the necessity of 'tarrying for the magistrate'. In the presbytery's proceedings, the civil magistrate's intervention was exceptional; and, indeed, the presbytery itself drew attention in 1587 to 'the grit aboundance of schaddein of blude in this countrie without ony puneishment or remady made thairfoir be the civill magistrat'.² Frequently, the presbytery resorted to the convenient device of requiring offenders to find surety for their good behaviour and to have this registered by the commissary court. More serious cases, however, were often remitted to the synod for further determination.³

The firm links between the localities and the centre which the church courts had forged, and which were scarcely paralleled in

¹ See below, 113; Kirk, *Second Book of Discipline* 213; see below, 39; APS, iii, 212, c. 6; see below, 115-16; 119-20; 208, cf. 209-12; 54

² Cameron, *First Book of Discipline*, 165; cf. Knox, Works, vi, 451; see below, 296

³ See below, 138, 193, 195-6, 202, 237, 242; 92, 98, 103, 159-60, 169-70, 173, 182; see also Index *sub* 'Commissary Court' and 'Synod'

secular society, were further strengthened by the judicial and supervisory work of the presbytery as a district court where ministers, lairds and burgesses deliberated together. This connection is strikingly illustrated in the appointment of commissioners to attend the general assembly. Whereas in October 1581 the presbytery had merely intimated that the lairds of Garden and Keir, and the commissary of Dunblane had been appointed by the synod as commissioners to the general assembly, by April 1582 the presbytery itself had undertaken to elect three ministers, as well as two lairds and the two commissaries as the 'barronis and gentill men', to attend the assembly at St Andrews. This form of election was again observed in June 1582 and in April 1583, but there is no word of the election of commissioners from the presbytery to the assemblies which met in October 1582 and in October 1583. Perhaps, as was so in October 1581, the synod assumed responsibility, as a convenient organ accustomed to meet in April and October. Thereafter, no assemblies met between October 1583 and May 1586; and the attempt by some ministers to convene an assembly in April 1584 ended in failure. Yet after its reconvening in June 1586, the presbytery resumed responsibility for sending commissioners (in this instance, purely ministerial commissioners) to the assembly which met at Edinburgh in June 1587.¹

Through the presbytery, too, the ordinances of the national and regional courts were circulated and made known in the parishes. Appeals were also transmitted from the presbytery to the general assembly.² The links established could scarcely have been closer, but they were in danger of being dissolved when the 'Black Acts' of 1584 revived the authority of bishops and proscribed presbyteries from meeting.

The presbytery minutes abruptly end on 19th May 1584; but in the preceding month, possibly in anticipation of the changes to come, the synod had taken the unusual step of announcing the times and places of the next four synods until April 1585.³ The eventual collapse of Arran's conservative government in December 1585, and the return from England of the presbyterian exiles who had sought

¹ See below, 8, 40, 45, 107, 266

² See below, 5, 10-11, 66-67, 79, 86, 113, 224, 281; 109-10, 224; 4-6, 10-11, 143

³ See below, 220; 215

sanctuary there, prepared the way for attempts at reconciling bishops, whom the king wished to retain, with a presbyterial administration. A conference between some councillors and ministers at Holyroodhouse in February 1585/6 reached agreement in a compromise which recognised that 'presbyteries of persons ecclesiasticall' should be set up throughout the realm in places selected by the general assembly with the king's advice, and that bishops, presented by the crown and admitted by the general assembly (to which they remained accountable in life and doctrine), should each accept a congregational charge, and, with other commissioners, conduct visitations with 'the advice of the presbyterie', which was also assigned a positive rôle in admitting candidates to benefices. Admissions and deprivations by a bishop, without the presbytery's approval, were declared to be invalid. Acceptance that a bishop 'by himself sall doe nothing, but that which a particular minister or moderator is astricted to by his office' was evidently designed to satisfy presbyterian beliefs, but it might also imply recognition that the bishop should become constant moderator of the presbytery, an interpretation which was by no means clarified in the accompanying statement that 'the bishops and commissioners sall visie the presbytereis and the moderator of the presbytereis sall visie the particular kirks'.¹

When it met in May, the assembly gave hesitant approval to the scheme after making many detailed comments. It insisted that the name of bishop was 'commoun to all Pastours and Ministers', but it permitted the king to present to the assembly for admission a minister nominated to a bishopric. Although affirming that 'visitatioun is in the person of Pastours', the assembly accepted that it might 'send a man, accompanied with such as the Presbitrie sall adjoyne to him in visitatioun', or, again, it might appoint a bishop to visit certain defined areas (but not 'the haill bounds callit of auld, Dyocie') so long as he proceeded with the synod's advice and such as the synod joined with him in visitation. In presentation and collation to benefices, the overseer was to act with the presbytery's advice and with assessors nominated by the general assembly. The work of bishops was to be supplemented by commissioners nominated by the crown and admitted by the assembly. In addition, the

¹ Calderwood, *History*, iv, 491-4

assembly wished to subject the bishop in life and doctrine to the presbytery or synod (as well as to the assembly in respect of his commission); but, on the king's objection, the bishop's subjection to the presbytery or synod was waived.¹

In drawing up its plans for establishing 16 synods and 52 presbyteries, the assembly separated Stirling and Dunblane into two distinct presbyteries (as Bishop Graham had sought in 1581) with 23 and 20 constituent churches respectively. Detached from the province of Lothian, the two presbyteries were to form a new province of Dunblane with its own synod, an arrangement which persisted until 1588 when both presbyteries were incorporated into the province of the synod of Perth. Since the assembly accepted in 1586 that bishops and commissioners should act as moderators of presbyteries, James Anderson, minister of Stirling and the crown's nominee to the assembly for the office of commissioner, automatically became moderator of Stirling presbytery which resumed its activities on 21st June; but the assembly also gave commission to four ministers from the two presbyteries in the province of Dunblane to observe the commissioner's behaviour.²

As efforts were made to effect a scheme along the lines of the bishop-in-presbytery, the first matter to come before the presbytery after its resumption, curiously enough, was the case of Bishop David Cunningham of Aberdeen, formerly sub-dean of Glasgow, whose trial for the 'sclandir of adultrie' the assembly had remitted to the presbyteries of Stirling and Glasgow. Thereafter, the presbytery resumed its supervision of the benefices within its jurisdiction by ordering James Cockburn, a non-resident benefice-holder, to produce his presentation, collation 'with all uthir richtis and documentis that he hes' to the benefice of Muckhart.³ The candidate, identified elsewhere as the brother of John Cockburn of Clerkington,

¹ BUK, ii, 650, 652-4

² *Ibid.*, ii, 648-9, 664, 667, 676; see below, 237, 245-6, 256-9; Scottish Record Office (SRO), CH2/722/1, Stirling Presbytery Records, 20 August 1588: 'The generall assembleie ordanis the presbyteriis of Perth and Dunkeld to concur with thir twa presbyteriis, viz., Sterling and Dunblane in ane synodall assembleie, and the placis of thair conventione to be at the appointment of the said synodall assembleie, and thair first conventione to be in Perth. *Sic subscribitur*, J. Richie'. (This authenticated record varies somewhat from the minute in BUK, ii, 738, which does not mention Stirling as part of the enlarged synod.) See below, 220; BUK, ii, 667

³ See below, 220-1; 221-2

had been presented by the king to the benefice of Muckhart on 12th January 1585/6, during the presbytery's abeyance; and the presentation in his favour had been directed to the archbishop of St Andrews, or to the commissioner or superintendent of the bounds. The presbytery's action, though not immediately effective, ultimately led to Cockburn's deposition four years later in 1591.¹

Although he was present in the sederunts of most presbytery meetings, the commissioner seems to have played no special part in the routine business of the presbytery (other than his acting as moderator) and, indeed, his activities escape mention in the records until October 1586 when the presbytery ordered him to notify a congregation of the presbytery's approval for the admission of an assistant minister. The commissioner, however, was accorded the right of attending the general assembly, but it was the presbytery, as a whole, which 'electit and nominat' the ministers to accompany him to Edinburgh in June 1587; and it was the presbytery, again, which decided when to resort to excommunication, leaving to the commissioner merely the task of executing its verdict. Although responsible for conducting visitations (and also for negotiating with the modifiers of ministers' stipends), the commissioner was nonetheless accountable to the presbytery, which inspected the parochial books of discipline and which criticised and fined him for his absence from the synod in April 1588 'berassone he is nocht onlie ane minister of the Word within thir boundis quhairby he is daitbund to haif bein thair, bot also, seing he is commissioner of thir hail boundis quhairby sindrie thingis concerning his offeice was neidfull to be handlit, and becaus thair was sindrie waightie materis traittit'.²

In the examination and admission of candidates to the ministry, the presbytery again played a leading part. In addition to examining ministers and prospective ministers at the exercise, the presbytery proceeded, after due trial, to admit Henry Laing, 'ane yung man of honest report newlie returnit frome the schollis' to the ministry at St Ninians in 1586; it licensed William Paton as a minister in 1587, and when no local church 'that hes only rassonable stipend' could

¹ SRO, CH4/1/2, Register of Presentations to Benefices, fo. 145r.; PS1/66, Register of the Privy Seal, fo. 119r.; CH2/722/2, Stirling Presbytery Records, 3 November, 1590; 22 June, 10 August, 1591

² See below, 289-90; 266; 305-7; 294; 253; SRO, CH2/722/1, Stirling Presbytery Records, 9 April 1588

be found for him, it permitted him to seek a charge in the Merse. When requested by a spokesman for the parishioners of Bothkennar 'to appoint ane brother to plaice' William Cowper whom the general assembly had admitted as minister, the presbytery 'ordeinit' the commissioner 'to pas to the said kirk ony Sondag he thocht meit, thair to notifie the parrochinnaris' and 'to desyr thame to signifie thair consent'. All too readily the commissioner might become no more than an instrument of the presbytery, which showed itself prepared to defend its jurisdiction. As soon as it heard of an apparent attempt by St Ninians kirk session 'to elect and admit ane minister', the presbytery denounced the action as 'plaine repugnant to Godis Word and gude ordur', since 'the admisionne of all ministeris is onlie in the handis of the presbyteriis and utheris assembleis of ministeris'. Once agreement was reached, the presbytery again appointed the commissioner to induct Henry Livingston as the new minister of St Ninians, 'and to plaice him ordinar pastur thairat'; 'and ordanis the commissionar to report his diligence heirin to the brethrein'. The commissioner's accountability to the presbytery was evidently not to be disregarded, and at the next meeting, a full report of his proceedings 'for obedience of the brethreinis ordinance' was disclosed, 'quhilk the brethrein jugit to be formallie done'. Nor was the commissioner's customary presence at inductions even considered to be essential. In December 1587, at Henry Laing's admission as minister of Airth, the presbytery chose to appoint the minister of Bothkennar to induct the new minister to Airth.¹

A preference for returning to earlier presbyterian practices, thereby undermining the compromise of 1586, soon became apparent by April 1588 when the device of having the commissioner serve as constant moderator was abandoned in favour of twice-yearly elections, as previously. Even earlier, the synod, by April 1587, had adopted the observance of rotating its meeting-place between Dunblane and Stirling. Thereafter, with the presbytery's incorporation in the synod of Perth, by August 1588, presbyterial visitations were resumed; and a representative other than the commissioner was appointed to the platt for adjusting ministers' stipends. The presbytery's self-confidence in recovering the lost ground of 1584 helped to hasten, as well as to reflect, the presbyterian

¹ See below, 229-34; 244-5; 273; 274-5; 275-8, 280-1, 283-4, 286-7, 289-90; 297

ascendancy within the wider church whose statutory recognition was finally forthcoming in 1592.¹ Statutes might still be annulled, or their force might be nullified, but never again in the history of the established church were presbyteries to be entirely swept away as they were by act of parliament in 1584.

The text and method of editing: The text offered below is contained in the first folio volume of Stirling Presbytery Records, which extends from August 1581 to February 1589/90, and which is presently located in the Scottish Record Office, Edinburgh.² The following transcription, ending in December 1587 (with the experiment of the commissioner-in-presbytery showing signs of collapse), illustrates the scope and content of the presbytery's work from the presbytery's erection in 1581 till the onset of the 'Black Acts' of 1584, its revival and recovery in 1586 and its reassertion of its powers thereafter.

The tidy, steady hand of the scribe, James Duncanson, reader at Stirling, continues throughout the volume, which remains unfoliated. The minutes seem to have been composed from notes (perhaps entered in a scroll book) which the scribe took at the meetings and subsequently wrote up. This would help to explain occasional slips, such as the misplacing of certain proceedings relating to Bishop Chisholm of Dunblane which the scribe inserted out of sequence in December 1587. Occasionally, in certain sessions, the scribe has recorded the sederunts but has omitted to enter any account of the proceedings.³ When the volume was later rebound, folios 2 and 3 were transposed, but the correct sequence is preserved in the text below. Nor is it possible to cross-check any cases in the 1580s with Stirling Kirk Session Records, whose surviving minutes only begin in November 1597.⁴

In transcribing and editing the records, the normal editorial conventions have been adopted. The original orthography has been retained, except for the standardisation of 'i' and 'j'; 'u', 'v' and

¹ See below, 245, 256, 310; SRO, CH2/722/1, Stirling Presbytery Records, 16 April 1588; 3 September 1588; 12 November 1588; APS, iii, 541-2

² SRO, CH2/722/1. The records have been assigned for transference to Central Regional Archives, Stirling

³ See below, 61, 193, 225, 230, 233-4, 239, 294; 296-7, 300-4

⁴ SRO, CH2/1026/1, Stirling Kirk Session Records, 17 November 1597

'w'; and 'y' and 'z' where appropriate. Abbreviations and contractions have been extended; punctuation has been modernized; editorial comment is italicised within square brackets; and the device of three full stops denotes the omission of a phrase owing to a damaged portion of text. Dates remain in original form.



STIRLING PRESBYTERY RECORDS

THE ELDERSCHIP of Striviling was erectit upone the viij day of August the yeur of God im vc lxxxi yeiris be Mr Robert Montgumrie and Mr Andro Grahame, commissionaris appointit be the last generall assemblie haldin at Glasquow to that effect.

The namis of the ministeris and elderis presentlie convenit quha accep[tit] upone thame offeice and plaice in the said presbitry be solem promeis [in] the presens of God thair handis beand haldin up promesing faythfullie to exerceis thair officis thairin, conform to the Word of God, unto the end of thair lyvis, as it sall plais God to minister unto thame the giftis of his Holie Spirit:

Ministeris: Mr Robert Montgumrie, minister at Striviling; Patrik Gillaspie, minister at S. Ninianis kirk; Andro Forester, minister at Falkirk; Mr Andro Yung, minister at Dunblane; Alexander Fargy, minister at Logy; Robert Mentayth, minister at Alvayth; Mr Adame Merschell, minister at Fossoway; Thomas Swintoun, minister at Mukert.

Elderis: for the kirk of Striviling, Adame, commendatar of Cambuskynne; Umphra Cunynghame, commissar of Striviling; Mr James Pont, commissar of Dunblane; Johnne Layng, burges of Striviling. For S. Ninianis kirk, Alexander Forester of Garden, Duncane Narne of Torbrekis, Alexander Patirson in Corspatrik. For Logy, Adame Spittall of Blair Logy, James Alschundur in Mainis.

The refuse of Mr Andro Grahame and Michael Lermonthe to accep plaice in the presbitry and the said Mr Androis protestatioun: Mr Andro Grahame, minister at Dunblane, and Michael Lermonth, minister at Kilbryd, beand desyrit be Mr Robert Montgomrie and the bretherein foirsaid, thai than beand present, to accept offeice and plaice in the elderschip foirsaid and to submit thame selffis to the jurisdiction thair of refusit to do the same and protestit the said Mr Andro Graham that this his consent to the erecting of the elderschip of Striviling sould nocht be prejudiciall to him in caice thair sould be ane presbitry heireftir appointit in Dunblane.

Electing of the scribe: The same day the bretherein present with commone consent electit James Duncansone, redar in the kirk of Striviling, clark to the said presbitry.

Electing of the moderator: The same day Patrik Gillaspy, minister at S. Ninianis kirk, was chosin be moniest vottis moderator to the said elderschip unto the nixt provinciall assemblie.

Quhat hour the exerceis sall begin: The bretherein ordanis the exerceis to be kept ilk Tysday at ix houris and the bell to rigne befor the hour ane rassonable spaice.

The xv day of August, 1581

Ordur for electing of elderis to the presbitry: Ordanis ilk minister to conveyin thair awin particular sessioun and to desyr thame to elect furth of thair parruschun twa or thre elderis to concur and accep offeice and plaice in the presbitry, and, being electit be thair awin sessioun, ordanis the minister to publeis thair naimis in the pulpet and to craif the consent of thair kirk thairunto, quhilk being obtenit ordanis the saidis personis to be presentit to the presbitry to the effect forisaid.

Admonitioun to the moderator to warn the ministeris heir wrettin to accep plaice in the presbitry: Ordanis Mr Andro Grahame, minister at Dunblane, Mr William Stirling, minister at Abirfoull, and Michael Lermont, minister at Kilbryd, to be warnit be the moderator to the xxij of August instant to accep upone thame offeice and plaice in this presbitry becaus thai ar appointit be the generall ordur to be under the jurisdictioun thair of, and that undir the pane of disobedience.

The xxij day of August, 1581

Comperance of Michael Lermont and production of ane wreting: Mrs Andro Grahame, William Stirling and Michael Lermont being warnit be the moderatoris wreting according to the tennour of the act maid thairanent in our last sessioun, comperit Michael Lermont for him self and in name of Maisteris Andro Grahame and William Stirling and productit ane wreting direct to Patrik Gillaspy, minister of Goddis word, quhairof the tennour followis.

The tennour of the wreting for Dunblane: Brethir, pleis we haif
ressavit a letter direct from you . . . the wrett in the name of certan
of your brethrein, quhairin ye req[ui]re and chairge us to repair
unto Stirling the xxij of this instant to adjone us unto the number of
your presbytery to keip ordinarie pla[ce] in your exerceis and uthir
assembleis thair of, and finallie to bring [the] eldaris of our con-
gregatiounis with us to accept plaice in your presbytery, thretning
us heirunto with excommunicatioun. For answer we haif heirtofor
in certane of your assembleis convenit with you to satisfie the
desyr of the kingis g[racis] letter and wrettein direct from the
moderator of the last generall assemblee, quhilk we undirstand
extein[dis] only to this point, that convening with uthir brethrein
and gentilmen to quhome the saidis letteris wer direct, we nicht
gif our avy[s and] jugement quhow the ordour of unioun and
divisioun of the kirkis [and] erectioun of the presbyteriis proponit
in the plat send to you mycht tak effect, and to reforme be gude
avyis quhairas it was neidfull and to report answer agane that be gude
avyis and deliberatioun gude ordour concerning the saidis pointis
nicht be finallie con[clu]dit and establischt be the kirk and kingis
grace, swa that our metin[g] was nocht to approve quhatsumevir
forme and ordour was propon[it] in the said platt without contra-
dictioun. Now we undirstand this ordur to haif tane that finall
conclusioun and establischtment as yit be the kirk and kingis grace.
In respect quhairof we marvell that ye sould exceid the boundis of
your commissioun safar as [to] threttin us with censuris incace of
our refusall to adjone unto your numbir befor that this ordur be
finallie establischt w[ith] uniform consent of the kirk and kingis
grace. And samekill that rather becaus we haif alwayis opponit our
selffis afoir and disassentit fra adjoning us unto your presbytery, lyk
as we be thir presentis disassentis thairfra for mony gude consider-
atiounis, namely, becaus we haif a presbytery of our awin erectit of
a lang tyme past in Dunblane be the ordur approvit be the generall
kirk affoir our visitour standand undischairgit, our assembleis and
conventionis mentenid, our exerceis haldin and keipit, and the
materis of our kirk intreattid, quhilk ordur ainis sa weill plantid, we
can nocht dessolve and brek raschelic be adjoning us to your numbir
befor that our lauchfull rassonis may be hard befor the generall
assemblee quhy we can nocht do the same lyk as we haif alreddy

menit our selffis be our letter and message exponit be the laird of Keir to the moderatour of the last generall assemblie and kirk of Edinburgh and sa that thai conclude the sam to be neidfull unto the quhilk tyme we can nocht adjone us to keip place and ordour with your presbytery, our awin ordur standand undischargit, bot will glaidlie furdur you with our counsell and presens as salbe neidfull without prejudice of our awin erectioun. This meikill we haif thocht meit to mak answer to your letter in a modest manir thinking the same salbe fund ressonabyll; uthirwayis gif the same may nocht satisfie, bot that nochtwithstanding ye intend (as ye mak mentioun be your letter) to proceid with censuris of your kirk againis us, we be thir presentis will protest for remade befor the generall assemblie, and appeallis frome you unto thair sentence. Swa committis you to God, from Dunblane the xxij day of August 1581, youris brethir in the Lord. *Sic subscribitur*, Androu, b. Domblane, Maister Williame Striviling, Michael Lermonthe, minister.

Quhilk wreting being sein and considerit be the bretherein present, ordanis Mr Andro Grahame, Mr William Stirling and Michael Lermonthe to produce ane warrand of thair presbytery and visitour specefeit in thair said wreting befor this sessioun the xxix day of August instant with certeficatioun and thai failze, this presbytery will ordane the censuris of the kirk to proceid againis thame.

Elderris: The quhilk day comperit Johnne Sandis, for the kirk of Fossoway, and William Persone, for the kirk of Glendoven, chosin be the kirkis foirsaidis to be elderis within the said presbytery, quha be halding up of thair handis and solem promeis in the presens of God promesit faythfullie to exerceis thair offecis thairin unto the end of thair lyvis as God sall minister to thame the giftis of his Spirit.

Chrystis well: The brethering, undirstanding ane papisticall pilgramage begun at leat at Chrystis well, ordanis everie minister within thair awin boundis to try quhat personis hes resortit thairto and to call thame befor thair particular sessioun that thai being convict thair of ordur may be provydit thairfoir.

Dansing: Ordanis the kirk of Striviling to tak ordur with sic personis as dansis on the Sabboth day speciallie with thai that dansit within the nycht in Robert Wysis hous on Sunday last.

Confessioun of the fayth: Ordanis ilk minister to requyr thair parrochinaris to subscryve the kingis gracies confessioun of fayth, conforme to the act of the generall assemblie maid thairanent.

The xxix day of August the yeir of God im vc lxxxi yeiris

Contenuatioun of the matter tuiching Dunblane: In the term assignit to Mr Andro Grahame, Mr William Stirling and Michael Lermonthe to produce ane warrand of thair allegit presbytery and visitur, comperit Michael Lermonthe and allegit in his awin name and thairis that the saidis Maisteris Andro and William nicht nocht compeir that day berassone of weghtie materis thai haid to do, and thairfor desyrit the term to be contenowit to the fyft of September nixt, quhilk being knawin and considerit be the brethir thair excuse was thocht rassonable and swa contenuit the mater to the fyft of September foirsaid, with certeficatioun and thai failze the censuris of the kirk could be execut againis thame.

Tuiching mariage: Ordanis the actis of the generall assemblie to be observit within the boundis of this presbytery, beand in effect that na minister within brugh minister mariage to ony persone aff ane preching day, and to landwart aff ane Sunday, and that in tyme of preching. Item, that na minister mary personis beand bayth of uthir congregatiounis nor his awin, albeit thai have lauchfull testimoniallis excep thai bring with thame ane lycence from the elderschip.

Elder for Alvethe: Comperit Andro Wilsone for the kirk of Alvethe, chosin be the same to be ane elder within the presbytery, quha be halding up of his hand and solem promeis in the presens of God promesit faythfullie to exerceis his offeice thairin unto the end of his lyif, as God sall minister to him the giftis of his Spirit.

The fyft day of September, 1581

Appellatioun for Dunblane: In the term assignit to Mr Andro Grahame, Mr William Stirling and Michael Lermonthe to produce warrand of thair allegit presbytery and visitur, compeirit the saidis personis personally and allegit that thai could nocht adjone thame selfis to this presbytery befor the generall assemblie haid concludit

thair determinatioun thairanent and haid hard thair ressonis quhairfore thai could nocht do the same, and adherand unto thair appellatioun gevin in of befoir undir thair hand wrett, protestit that thai mycht be hard befoir the generall assemblie befoir ony proces war led againis thame be us, and incaise of refuse of this thair desyr appellis of new to the determinatioun of the generall assemblie quhom thai promeis to obey. Albeit that the saidis personis satisfieit nocht the desyr of thair terme conforme to the last act, yit inrespect of thair appellatioun the brethir contenwis farder proces againis thame to the said generall assemblie, and ordanis thame to compeir befoir the samin the thrid day thair of to heir thair pretendit appellatioun discussit with certificatioun and thai failze the said appellatioun salbe haldin as nocht proponit, to the quhilk the saidis personis willinglie aggreit.

Admoneis Mr Robert Montgumrie: The brethir, considdering the grit absence of Mr Robert Montgumrie, minister at Stirling, fra his chairge and necligence in his office bayth in doctrein and disceplein, ordanis the moderator to admoneis him thair of and to desyr him to compeir the nixt sessioun to schaw the causis of his absence.

The xij day of September, 1581

The quhilk day Patrik Gillaspie, moderatour, schew to the brethir that he haid admonesit Mr Robert Montgumrie of his absence and desyrit him to be present conform to the last act.

Production of Mr Robert Montgumreis wreting: Comperit James Duncansone and producit ane wreting of the said Mr Robertis direct to the brethir of the exerceis and presbytery of Striviling, quhair of the tennour follwis.

The tennour of the said wreting: Bretherein, eftir my hairtlie commendatioun, war nocht certane necessar bissines I haif haid ado this tyme bygane, and yit hes in hand, I haid nocht bein absent fra you. Thairfor I pray you haif my absence excusit, for I suppose few ministeris hes kepit bettir recidens nor I haif keipit hethirto, nor mair cairfull for the kirk, bayth towardtis the exerceis and presbytery, as I report your awin rememberens, nocht doutting bot ye will tak in gude part my lauchfull excuse as occasioun may offir to your selffis and the Lord blis your exerceis and presbytery throw

Jesus Chryst. So be it. At Stirling, the xj day of September 1581. *Sic subscribitur*, youris brothur in the Lord, Maister Robert Montgomerie.

The ansuer to the said wretting: The said wretting being considerit albeit it appeiris to accuse utheris, rather than to excuse him self, yit the brethir willing materis to be handillit brothurlie passis thairfra and ordanis the said Mr Robert to declair in the nixt sessioun the speciall causis of his absence becaus the bill in that part is generall.

Admonitioun concerning adultraris: The moderatour warnit the brethir that gif thair was ony adultraris or incesteus personis within thair boundis that thai sould summond thame (sa mony as was convict thairof) to the synodall assemblie to be haldin in Edinburgh the thrid day of October to ressave thair injunctionis thairfoir.

The xix day of September, 1581

The brethrein inrespect of Mr Robert Montgomreis absence contenwis his mater to the xxvj day of September instant.

The xxvj day of September, 1581

Ordanis to summond Mr Robert Montgumrie: The brethir, considering the absence of Mr Robert Montgumrie fra his chairge to be na thing amendit be thair former admonitioun, bot rather mair negligent nor of befoir, ordanis him to be summond to the provinciall assemblie of the elderschippis of Striviling, Linlythquow, Edinbrugh and Dalkayth to be haldin in Edinbrugh the thrid day of October nixtocum within the tolbutth thairof or quhair it salhappin thame to sitt within the said brugh for the tyme to answer to sic thingis as sould be layit unto his chairge undir the paine of disobedience, and ane summons to be direct heirupone.

Margaret Leiche, adultrix: Compeirit Malcolme Wallace, elder of the kirk of Striviling, and schew that Margaret Leiche haid confessit in thair particular assemblie that scho haid committit adultry with James Galbrayth of Culcruch desyring the elderschip to wrett and declair the samin to the elderschip quhair the said James dwellis.

James Galbrayth allegit adultrar: The brethir ordanis the moderatour to wret unto the elderschip of Glasquow and to desyr thame to try the said James Galbrayth of Culcruch befor thame tuiching the adultery allegit upon him be the said Margaret Leiche.

The x day of October, 1581

Presentes: Mr Robert Montgumrie, Patrik Gillaspy, Andro Forester, Mr Andro Yung, Alexander Fargy, Robert Mentayth, Thomas Swintoun, Mr Adame Merschell, my lord Cambuskynneth, the laird of Garden, Mr James Pont, Umphra Cunynghame, Adame Spittall, James Alexander, the lairdis of Keir, Dutreyth, Mairches-toun and Glorat, Mr Johnne Stewart, provest of Striviling, Johnne Auchtmwty, Andro Cowane, Malcolme Wallace, bailleis, and William Norwall, maistir of wark.

Commissionaris to the generall assemblie warnit thairto: The moderatour schew to the lairdis of Garden and Keir and Mr James Pont that thai war appointit be the provincially assemblie to be commissionaris to the generall assemblie to be haldin in Edinbrugh the xvij day of this instant and desyrit thame to keip the samin.

Robert Mentayth requyrit of ane penalty: Robert Mentayth being requyrit of the penultie contenit in the act of the provincially assemblie for his absence fra the same allegit that he was seik and mycht nocht travell.

Mr Robert Montgumrie requyrit of ane penaltie and his answer: Mr Robert Montgumrie, being requyrit to pay the penaltie contenit in the act of the provincially assemblie for his absence fra the same inrespect his excuse send thair was nocht fund sufficient as ane act maid thairupone beris, answerit he send ane rassonablle excuse as apperit to him in wret, and farder gif thair be ony penultie of him requirit gif ane law straikis upone him he will obey it quhen he seis it.

Elder for Mukert: Compeirit Henrie Douglas for the kirk of Mukert and acceptit plaice of ane elder within the presbytry and solemnitle promesit in the presens of God be his hand hauldin up that he sould faythfullie use the same to the end of his lyf as God sall blis him with his Holie Spirit.

Electing of the moderatour: It being declairit to the bretherein that

the moderatour sould be chosin of new to the nixt provinciall assemblie according to the act of the generall assemblie haldin at Glasquow last, the bretherein having put him in leittis hes electit Patrik Gillaspy moderatour to the nixt synnodall assembly.

That na minister serve at na kirk bot ane : It is ordanit and intimatioun was made be the moderatour that na minister sould accep the chairge of ony kirkis upon thame bot onely of ane according to the act of the generall assemblie.

Complent of Mr Robert Montgumrie : Mr Robert Montgumrie complaynit that he was nocht bruthurly nor cheritable handillit be in that thair was summondis direct againis him in name of the eldirship he nocht being bruthurly admonesit of befoir according to the ordur and sua findis fault with the proces led againis him, and desyris gif the brethir will abyde be the same. Answerit thairunto Patrik Gillaspy that he was admonesit personallie be him in name of the brethir that thai fand fault with his negligence in his offeice and nocht awaytting on his chairge, and thairfor desyrit him to compeir befoir the bretherein the xij of September last to mak his awin excuse. And inrespect he comperit nocht personally bot send his wretting quhilk was generall and conteinit na speciall caus of his absence, the said Patrik in name of the brethir affermit that thair was na wrang done to him bot the proces deducit againis him was lauchfullie led.

The bretherenis petitioun againis Mr Robert Montgumrie and his answer thairto : The brethering, considdering Maister Robert Montgumreis allegence and Patrik Gillaspeis answer thairunto, desyris the said Mr Robert yit as of befoir to schaw the speciall causis of his absence fra his chairge everie uthir Sunday and the haill oulk dayis excep the [blank] day of [blank] last fra doctrein, displein and exerceis sen the x day of August besyddis his uther absence of befoir. He answeris he keipit all the Sabbothe dayis few exceptit, and gif he haid bein requyrit athir be word or wret of the bretherein he wald willinglie obey it, and sayis that he haid sic rassonable bissines ado for him self and for freindis that movit his absence the tyme of his absence as he will mair speciallie declair heireftir.

Approving of the former ordinance againis Mr Robert : The said Mr Robert being removit, the bretherein present approvis the ordinance and citatioun deducit againis him and findis the proces formallie led.

Also thay find his answer to thair formar petitioun as yit generall and thairfor ordanis him presentlie to declair the causis of his absence mair speciall.

Mr Robertis answer thairto: The said Mr Robert answeris tuiching ane mair speciall answer and the approbatioun of the absentis allwing the thing that was done be the presentis tuiching his citatioun, it appeiris to him he hes gevin sufficient answer and refarris the samin to be considerit be the generall assembleie of the kirk and promesis thair to declair the speciall causis of his absence as he salbe requyrit.

Ane desyr of the toun of Stirling and answer thairto maid be Mr Robert: Compeirit Williame Norwall in name of the provest, bailleis and counsell of the toun of Striviling and desyrit Mr Robert Montgumrie, thair minister, to declair unto thame gif he wald remane with thame or nocht to the effect thay micht provyd for thame selffis incaice he left thair kirk. He answeris it plaisit God to call him to be minister thair and hes schawin his diligence in the offeice to Goddis glorie and the weill of his kirk, and for his part sall nocht lave thame destitut to sic tyme that with thair awin avys thai be provydit and sall assist thame alwayis according to his power to Goddis glorie and the weill of his kirk. The said Mr Robertis answer being considerit be the brethir was fund doutsum and nocht direct and plaine to the desyr of the said William and thairfor ordanis him to gif ane plaine answer quhethir he will remane or nocht. Answerit the said Mr Robert, and promesit to gif ane plaine answer to the provest, bailleis and counsell betuix and Sonday nixt to cum quhethir he wald remane with thame him self or nocht.

Ultimo Octobris, 1581

Presentes: Robert Mentayth, Mr Andro Yung, Alexander Fargy, Mr James Pont, Patrik Layng, Mr Alexander Yulle.

The moderatour reportit the ordinance concerning the appellatioun of Dunblane concludit in the generall assembleie quhairof the tennour follwis:

Apud Edinburgh, the xix day of October, 1581

The act of the generall assembleie concerning Dunblane: The generall assembleie of the kirk ordanis the brethir upon the billis to considir

the appellatioun of Dunblane and the proces of the elderschip of Striviling deducit againis thame and to report thair judgement thairin agan to the assemblee.

Apud Edinburgh, xx Octobris, 1581

The brethir nominat upone the billis thinkis that the bretherein of Striviling hes lauchfullie procedit according to the act of the generall assemblee and jugis the brethering of Dunblane refusaris nocht to have done obedientlie and in the mentyme thinkis that the ministeris of Dunblane aucht to entir thame selffis in the presbytery of Striviling, and quhen greter zeall, diligence and sinciritie salbe tryit in the ministeris of Dunblane in executing of disceplein and utheris pointtis of thair offeice, that upone thair sute eftir incres of baith the thair numberis, the generall assemblee may be movit to grant that ane new presbytery may be erectit also in Dunblane.

Quhilk ordinance of the bretherein upone the billis was approvit be the haill assemblee and subscrivit be the clark thairof.

James Dalmahoy: Beressone of sum complenttis gevin in againis James Dalmahoy, minister of Cambuskynneth, the brethir ordanis the said James to be summond to the vij of November nixt to answer to sic thingis as salbe layit unto his charge.

The vij day of November, 1581

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Andro Yung, Thomas Swentoun, Alexander Fargy, Mr Alexander Yulle.

James Dalmahoy: Ane summondis beand producit upone James Dalmahoy, minister, deulie execute and indorsit, comperit the said James and being accusit for mareing of Mr Johnne Forbes and Issobell Miln, parrochinaris of the kirk of Striviling, without testimoniall of the minister or redar thairof, confessit the same. Secundlie, being accusit for mareing of Henrie Strachane and Janet Moir, parrochinaris of Tullibody, nochtwithstanding thair was chalenging made of the man be ane uthir woman, and als without testimoniall or lycence of the elderschip againis the act of the generall assemblee, seing that nane of the parteis was parrochinaris to him, the said James confessit the mariage and also the oppositioun made againis the persone of the mane, bot allegit that the opponar refarrit the mater to the manis aithe quha purgit him self thairby.

Secundlie [*sic*], the said James allegit him self to be minister at the kirk of Tullibody and the parteis to have bein lauchfullie proclamit be him and swa neidit na testimoniall nor lycence of the elderschip. Thridlie, being accusit for mareing of ane Agnes Kidstoun (hir husband [*blank*] beand on lyf and na divorcement passit betuix thame) with ane Johnne Broun, the said James confessit the mariage, bot denyit that he knew hir first gudman to be on lyve. Ferdlie, being accusit for baptising of ane bairne of Johnne Huttoun, gottin in adultrie and incest upone ane Ellein Maleice in Striviling, confessit the same bot allegit he did it at command of Mr Robert Montgumrie, minister at Striviling.

The brethir contenwis the avysment of James Dalmahoyis accusationis and his answeris gevin thairunto to ane fuller sessioun.

Patrik Layng: The bretherein ordanis ane testimoniall to be gevin to Patrik Laing of his habilitie to entir in the ministrie becaus he hes bein tryit bayth be the brethir of the exerceis of Dumfarming as David Fargusonis testimoniall gevin thairupon beris, and also be us bayth in exerceis and publict doctrein and fund ablle to proffeit the kirk of God be his doctrein, and als for his lyf and conversatioun seing we have ressavit sure knowlege of the honestie thairof, bayth be ane testimoniall of the gentilmen of Clakmannan quhair he dwellis, and als be report of our brothur Thomas Swintoun send be us thair to that effect.

Ordanis the brethir of Dunblane to be summond conform to the act of the general assembly.

The xiiij day of November, 1581

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Andro Yung, Mr Alexander Yulle, Umphra Cunynghame.

Brethir of Dunblane: Ane summondis beand producit dewlie execute and indorsit upone Mr Andro Grahame, Mr Duncan Nevein and Michael Lermonte, compeirit the said Michael and being desyrit presentlie to adjone him self to the presbytery of Striviling, conforme to the act of the generall assemblee, ansorit that he knew nocht the ordinance of the generall kirk concerning the adjoning of the bretherein of Dunblane to Striviling, and thairfor tuke him to avys to the xxj day of November instant, at quhat tyme he sould gif

ane resulat answer thairanent. And as to Mr Andro Grahame and Mr Duncan Nevein albeit thai send thair excuisis yit the kirk findis thame nocht ressonable, and thairfor ordanis thame to be summond to the xxj of November instant undir the paine of excommuni-catioun.

The xxj day of November, 1581

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Robert Montgumrie, Mr Andro Yung, the laird of Garden, Mr James Pont, Mr Alexander Yulle and Umphra Cunynghame.

Mr Robert Montgumrie: The moderatour producit ane wreting send to the brethir fra Mr Johnne Craig, moderatour in the last generall assemblee, togethir with ane act of the said assemblee concerning the tryell of sum accusationis to be gevin in againis Mr Robert Montgomrie tuiching his lyf and conversatioun, and his residence at the kirk of Striviling, etc. Quhilk wreting and act being sein and considerit be the brethrein, the moderatour at thair command made intimatioun of the said act to the said Mr Robert and delyverit him ane copie thair of in presens of the sessioun. The said Mr Robert being requyrit, according to the desyr of the moderatouris bill, gif he hade ressavit intimatioun of the said act of befor fra the said moderatour of the generall assemblee ansorit that the intimatioun made to him of the said act be Mr Johnne Craig, moderatour of the generall assemblee, was sufficient and grantit the samin deulie intimat, albeit all circumstancis was nocht observit. Farder, the said Mr Robert being requyrit upone the heddys of the act: first gif he wald be content to abyd the tryell of the elderschip of Striviling in his lyf and conversatioun and accusatiounis to be gevin in thairanent, ansorit he was content to abyd tryell befor the said presbytery quhatsoever sould be layit unto his chairge athir in lyf or doctrein. Secundlie, being inquiryt gif he wald remane minister at Striviling, ansorit that he wald remane at Striviling, God willing, to the nixt generall assemblee and langer as the kirk wald command him. Thridlie, being desyrit that he sould nocht mell with na uthir functioun nor offyce and namelie that he sould nocht aspyr to the bischoprie of Glasgw nor trubble his brethir with his admis-sioun thairto, ansorit that the mater was wechtie and thairfor

desyrit ane ressonablle day to advis with his answer. The assemblie appointtis him the xxviij of this instant to gif ane resulat answer thairunto, to the quhilk he aggreit. Ordanis ane answer to be send to Mr Johnne Craig of his bill, conform to Mr Robert Montgumreis answeris.

Minister of Kilbryd adjonit: Comperit Michael Lermonthe and submittis him self to the presbytery of Striviling, conform to the ordinance of the generall assemblie.

Mr Andro Graham, Mr Duncan Nevein: Ane summond is productit the secund tyme deulie execut and indorsit upone Mr Andro Grahame and Mr Duncan Nevein at thair dwelling placis, the assemblie undirstandand Mr Andro Grahame to be furth of the cuntrie, contenwis farder proces againis him to his returning and als superseiddis farder proces againis Mr Duncan Nevein to the xxviij of this instant and ordanis the copie of the act of the generall assemblie to be send to him and he to gif resulat answer thairunto the said day with certeficatioun and he failze the sentence of ex-communicatioun wilbe ordanit to be pronuncit againis him.

Concerning adulteraris: Ordanis all ministeris within the presbytery to gif up the naimis of adulteraris within thair boundis that has nocht satisfeit the kirk that ordur may be tane thairwith.

The xxviij day of November, 1581

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, Michael Lermonthe, Alexander Fargy, the laird of Garden, Adame Spittell of Blairlogy, Mr James Pont, Umphra Cunnyngname, commissaris of Dunblane and Striviling, and Mr Alexander Iulle.

Mr Robert Montgumrie: The quhilk day being assignit to Mr Robert Montgumrie with his awin consent to gif ane resulat answer to the last part of the act of the generall assemblie, that is to say, that he sould nocht mell with onie functioun or offeice in the kirk bot the offeice of the ministrie at the kirk off Striviling and, namelie, that he sould nocht aspyr to the bischoprie of Glasgw nor trouble his brethir with his admissioun thairto, James Duncanson, scribe to the assemblie, productit ane wreting of the said Mr Robertis direct presentlie to the said assemblie quhairof the tennour follwis.

Tennour of Mr Robertis Montgumreis wreting: Brothur James,

becaus I am chairgit schortlie by my expectatioun to ryd for sum bissynes quhilk I sall schaw bayth the brethrein of the presbytery, the magistrattis, elderis and deacunis of our congregatioun, I pray you excuse my absence a[t] all thair handis, for I intend, by Goddis graice, schortlie to return and to awate as becumis me upone my chairge praying you to request the magistrattis and bretherein to request my brothur Patrik Gillaspy to support my absence as I salbe reddie agane in the lyk maner as becumis brethrein nocht doutting bot he will do the samin bayth for thair request and myne and the Lord preserve you and thame in the Lord, at Striviling the 23 of November 1581. *Sic subscribitur*, your brothur in the Lord, Maister Robert Montgumrie, minister at Striviling.

Mr Robert Montgumrie: Quhilk wreting being considerit be the brethrein was fund to report na answer of that part of the act abone specefeit, conform to his promeis, nather yit ony ressonablle excuse of his absence and thairfor ordanis ane summondis to be direct, chairgeing him to compeir befor the sessioun of the elderschip the fyft day of December nixt to gif resulat answer to that part of the act befor specefeit with certeficatioun and he compeir nocht the assemblie will proceid againis him according to the act of the generall assemblie.

Mr Duncan Nevein: Compeirit Mr Duncan Nevein and being requyrit to adjone him self to the presbytery of Striviling and to accep plaice thair with the bretherein thairfor, conform to the act of the generall assemblie, the said Mr Duncan for answer producit ane wreting, as it beris in the self, quhairfor the tennour follwis.

At Striviling the xxviij day of November, 1581

Mr Duncan Neveinis answer: The same day in the terme assignit be the brethrein off Striviling to Mr Duncan Nevein, schoilmaister of Dunblane, to gif resolute answer to the act of the generall assemblie maid at Edinburgh the xx day of October 1581, berand in effect that the brethrein of Striviling had procedit lauchfullie according to the act of the generall assemblie and that the brethrein of Dunblane, refusaris, hade nocht done obedientlie and thairfor thocht that in the mentyme the ministeris of Dunblane aucht to entir thame selffis in the presbytery of Striviling etc., compeirit the said Mr Duncane

undir protestatioun nocht admittand the elderschip of Striviling to be jugis to him bot insafar as law will and als undir protestatioun that he confessis nocht that he at ony tyme hade refusit to obey the actis and ordinancis of the kirk safar as thai micht be extendit to himwart, and adherand thairto allegis that he on nawayis is obleist to entir and adjone him self to the presbytery of Striviling in exerceis and offeice of elderschip be vaitew of the act affoir mentionat, and that becaus the said act was made for thame that was ministeris at Dunblane and chairgit be the brethering of Striviling to have adjonit thame to the presbytery of Striviling according to the tennour of the act of the generall assembleie maid at Glasgw and had refusit. And it is of veretie that the said Mr Duncan Nevein is nocht ane minister and thairfor was nocht chairgit to adjone him to Stirling befor the last generall assembleie. Nathir yit was thair evir ony intimatioun of that act made to him, and swa he can nocht be jugit to haif bein ane refusar to gif obedience to the voce of the kirk, he nevir being chairgit to obey the same act, as said is, nocht grantand that it concernit the fairsaid Mr Duncane in ony part thairof. And quhair it may appeir and be objectit that this act of the last generall assembleie concernis the said Mr Duncane becaus it is of veretie that he hes usit the first and secund plaice in the exerceis of Dunblane thir dyveris yeiris bygane quhen his cours come in ordur amang the brethrein and becaus he is jugit worthie be thame to be ane minister and hes consentit to accept that offeice. And thairfor he is obleist to entir in Striviling to the exerceis. Thairto, this it is ansorit, that the said Mr Duncan consentit to accept the offeice of ministrie gif thair war fund ane kirk vacand neirby Dunblane and he provydit of ane sufficient stipend for his serveice thairat, quhilk as yit is nocht done. And althocht that he of his awin fre will for love that he hade to the Word of God, and becaus the kirk was within ane stane cast to his scholle usit the exerceis in Dunblane, it follwis nocht that he sould be compellit to laif his schoill and the prayeris onsaid upone ane prayer day and gang four myll to ane exerceis and swa tyne the proffeit and commodetie that he hes for his scholle and prayeris, he nathir beand ane minister, as said is, nor yit provydit to ane sufficient stipend. And for thir ressonis and utheris contenit in the uther two wretingis productit for the part of the said Maister Duncane in presence of the brethrein heir and in respect that the

generall assemblie hes fundin na inobedience with him thair act unna-ways can straik upone him, and swa na farder proces sould be led againis him befor the brethrein of Striviling in this caus, and gif ony farder beis deducit againis him, he protestis for remade.

The bretherein eftir sicht of the said answer contenwis thair avysment thairwith to thai have the interpretatioun of the act of the generall assemblie fra Mr Johnne Craig, moderatour in the last generall assemblie.

The fyft day of December, 1581

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspy, Mr Andro Yung, Alexander Fargy, Adame, commendatar of Cambuskynneth, David, commendatar of Drybrugh, Alexander Forester of Garden, Adame Spittell of Blair Logy, Johnne Schaw of Bruicht, Umphra Cunynghame, Duncane Narne, Mr Alexander Iule, Robert Alexander and Johnne Auchmutty, bailleis, Duncane Leischman, den of gild, and William Norwall, maister of wark.

Mr Robert Montgumrie: It being askit gif Mr Robert Montgumrie was summond according to the act of the last sessioun, it was ansorit be the moderatour and scribe of the sessioun that the summondis was formit and delyverit with the copie thairof to Gilbert Crystesone, quha eftir the ressett of the same neglectit the executioun thairof and thaireftir. The brethrein, being avysit with the ordinance maid befor thame the xxj day of November last concerning Mr Robert Montgumrie his residence at Striviling in serving the ministrie thairof and that he sould nocht aspyr to ony uthir functioun, namelie, the bischoprie of Glasgw nor trublle his brethrein with his admissioun thairunto according to the act of the generall assemblie than intimat to him, findis that the said Mr Robert hes nocht made residence at the kirk of Striviling conform to his promise than made befor tham bot hes bein contenuallie absent sensyne and swa hes brokin that part of the act of the generall assemblie, and also hes nocht gevin answer to the uthir part of the said act concerning his aspyring to the bischoprie off Glasgw and trubling of his brethrein with his admissioun thairunto according as it was thane ordenit with his awin consent, and swa hes disobeyt that part also of the act of the generall assemblie, quhairfor ordanis

the said Mr Robert to be summond befor tham to the xix day of December instant to heir and se him self decernit to have contravenit and brokin the heddis foirsaidis of the act of the generall assemblie and thairfor to be subject to the censuris of the kirk conteinit in the said act with certificatioun quhiddir he compeir or nocht thay will ordane the sentence of excommunicatioun to be pronuncit againis him with the avys of the brethir conteinit in the act of the generall assemblie foirsaid.

The same day the brethir creat William Stevinsone officer to the presbytery quha presentlie gaif his aithe to use the samin faythfullie.

The xix day of December, 1581

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspy, Mr Robert Montgunrie, Michael Lermonthe, Alexander Fargy, Mr Alexander Chisholme, ministeris; Alexander Forester of Garden, Umphra Cunynghame, commissar of Striviling, Mr James Pont, commissar of Dunblane, Mr Alexander Iule, maister of the grammir scholle, Johnne Schaw of Bruigh and Johnne Bruce of Auchinbowey.

Mr Duncane Nevein: The samin day the moderatour presentit the answer and interpretatioun of the act of the generall assemblie concerning Mr Duncan Nevein, scholemaistir and reder of Dunblane, bering in effect that he sould make the exerceis in Striviling being within the boundis now appointit within the presbytery erectit thair becaus he is teicher of the youthe, reder of the kirk, and hes made it befor in Dunblane.

Mr Robert Montgumrie: Quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Mr Robert Montgumrie to heir and se him decernit to have contravenit the act of the generall assemblie in nocht satisfeing the desyr thair of upone the xxviij of November last bypast conform to his promeis, compeirit the said Mr Robert and confessit that the caus quhy he keipit nocht the day appointit was upone occasioun that he was desyrit to cum to Edinburgh for ressonable bissines that he hade ado and meinit na contemp of the kirk. And quhair as he was accusit for absence fra his flok upone ordinar preiching dayis and assemblie promesis in tyme cuming nocht to depart fra his kirk befor he schaw thame and obtain athir lycence of his awin kirk or than of the elderschip. Secundlie,

as tuiching the part of the act concerning his aspyring to ane uthir functioun, namelie the bischoprik of Glasgw, and trubling of his brethrein with his admissioun thairunto, he answeris that he meinis nocht nor will, nor sall be ony uthir bischop bot sic ane bischop as Paull teichis in his epistillis to Titus and Timothie, that is, a minister and preichour of the Word of God and promesis nevir to trouble or vex his brethrein with his admissioun to the bischoprik of Glasgw.

Margaret Drummond: It is latten the brethir to undirstand that Margaret Drummond, relict of umquhill Robert Forester of Boquhen, is nocht mareit to Lowrence Barclay and that the bairne that scho was last delyverit of is nocht the said Lowrence bairn and that the same bairn was baptezit be ane that beris na offeice in the kirk, and for this same purpois Patrik Gillaspie, minister at S. Ninianis kirk, producit ane wreting send to the sessioun of his kirk be Johnne Cairnis, reder and minister in Edinburgh, quhairfor the brethir ordanis hir to be summond to compeir befor the bretherein to schaw gif the mariage be of treuth, quha is fathir of the bairne, quhair it was baptesit and quhome be.

The xxvj day of December, 1581

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, Johnne Duncanson, Alexander Fargy, Michael Lermouthe, Mr James Pont, Mr Alexander Iule, Johnne Broun, Alexander Forester of Garden, James Edmestoun of Dun-treyth, Umphra Cunynghame, Duncane Narne.

James Dalmahoy: James Dalmohoyis accusationis and his confessioun thairupon being consedirit be the brethrein, ordanis the actis of the generall assemblie made tuiching baptisme and mariage to be socht out.

Mr Robert Montgumrie: The brethir thocht gude that Mr Robert Montgumreis lyf and conversatioun sould be tryit be thame conform to the act of the generall assemblie. And it beand ressonit gif ony sclandir was thairin, it wes fund be the brethrein that he was bruttit with intemperance of his mouthe sa that sumtymis eftir meikill drink his sensis wald feall him. And lykwys the brethir findis that his doctrein is nocht formall nor sensabll to the commone pepill, and that his jestur in pulpet is nocht decent at sum tymis. Thairfor ordanis him privellie to be conferrit with tuiching the heddis abone specefeit.

The second day of Januar, 1581

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Robert Montgumrie, Alexander Fargy, Michael Lermouthe, Mr Alexander Iule, Johnne Broun, Alexander Forester of Garden, Alexander Patersone, Umphra Cunyngham, Mr James Pont and Duncane Narne.

Mr Robert Montgumrie: The brethir nominattis and ordanis Mr James Pont, Mr Alexander Iule, Alexander Fargy and Patrik Gillaspie to confer privallie with Mr Robert Montgumrie concerning thais thingis quhair of he is bruitit concerning his lyf and als quhairin thai find fault concerning his doctrein and ordanis thame and him to conveyn to that effect in the said Mr Roberttis hous the fyft of Januar instant at x houris befor none and to report his answer to the nixt sessioun.

Becaus the exerceis is nocht weill observit be the brethir appointit upone the same, ordanis the haill brethir to be warnit to the ix of Januar nixt that with consent of the haill besyd the ordinance of the act of the generall assemblie with thair awin consenttis ane penaltie may be appointit for sic as keipis nocht thair awin ordinarie plaice.

The ix day of Januar, 1581

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Robert Montgumrie, Robert Mentayth, Mr Andro Yung, Patrik Layng, Mr William Stirling, yunger, Mr James Pont, Alexander Forester of Garden, Alexander Patersone, Mr Alexander Iule, Johnne Broun.

Margaret Drummond: Ane summondis producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Margaret Drummond conform to the act of the last sessioun maid thairanent, compeirit the said Margaret and allegit that scho haid na recidence nor duelling plaice within the elderschip of Striviling and that hir recidence (gif ony scho hade) was within the toun of Edinburgh, and thairfore was nocht bund to answer befor the elderschip of Striviling bot befor the elderschip of Edinburgh. Quhilk allegence being considderit be the brethir, it was fund hir maist recidence to be in Edinburgh and thairfore remittis hir thairunto as hir juge ordinar and ordanis the kirk of Edinburgh to be advertesit heirof.

Ane penaltie appointit for keping of the exerceis: It is appointit and

ordeinit with consent of the haill ministeris of the elderschip and brethir of exerceis undir subscryvand that quhatsoever minister or brothur of exerceis sall fail in making of the exerceis on his ordinar day sall pay ten schillingis mony, and gif he fail in making of additioun or speiking in the second plaice upone his ordinar day, viz., the day of exerceis immediatlie preceding the day of his awin ordinar exerceis sall pay fyve schillingis mony as for the first faulttis and thir penulteis the second tyme to be dubillit and the thrid tym trepleist and applyit *ad pios usus*.

[Signatures:] Maistyr Robert Montgumrie [deleted], Mr James Pont, James Anderson, Mr William Striviling, Patrik Gillaspie, Alexander Fargy, Robert Menteht, Johne Broun, Mr Alexander Iule, Mr Andro Young, Mr William Stirling, Michael Lermont, Patrik Layng, Mr Alexander Cheisholm, Androw Grayme, Mr Arthour Futhie, Mr Adam Merschall.

Mr Robert Montgumreis complement on the sessioun of his awin kirk: Mr Robert Montgumrie complainit upone Duncane Leischman, schawing that at the ministratioun of baptisme he reprovand the said Duncan and utheris witnessis to ane bairne baptezit becaus thai gaif dyvers namis to the sonne [bairne, deleted] sayand thai war in the wrang. The said Duncan ansorit sayand he was in the wrang. The brethir ordanis the said Duncan to be summond to the xvj day of Januar instant to answer to the said complement undir the paine of disobedience. Lykwys the said Mr Robert complanit that the elderis of his kirk keipit nocht ouklie assemblie with him thairfoir ordanis Mr James Pont, Patrik Gillaspie and Mr Alexander Iule to confer with thame that thair ordinar assemblie may be observit and that thingis that ar out of ordur amangis thame may be reformat.

Report of the privie confirrence had with Mr Robert Montgumrie: The brethrein appointit to confer with Mr Robert Montgumrie reportit that in confirrence hade with him concerning his doctrein he confessit that sumtymis thruch laik of memorie and negligence in his studie and awaytting on his buik, being occupyit in uthir effairis he keipit nocht sic furmalitie and sensibilnes in doctrein as become him, quhilk he promesit Godwilling to mend in tymis cuming. And as to his lyf and conversatioun, first quhair he is bruittit with intemperence, confessit that he hes bein sumtymis langer deteinit in cumpany than become him, quhilk Godwilling he

promesis to mend in tymis cuming. Bot his conscience buir him witnes that he was nevir swa ovircumit with drink that his sencis faillit him. Secundlie, quhair he is bruittit of greid and avarice in taking xj merk for the hundir contrarie to the commone ordur in the cuntrie, he did nocht preceislie deny the same bot said the mony that he haid layd on hand he hade gevin mair for viij merk nor for x. Thridlie, being askit quhow he could of saif conscience intromet and mell with the patrimony of the bischoprie of Glasgw, seing he servit at the kirk of Striviling and hade ane stepend thairfore, and swa nathir servit the cure of the kirk of Glasgw nathir yit bestowit ony part of the said patrimony upone sic causis as the same was ordeinit for, he ansorit that gif the kirk fand that he could nocht bruke the said patrimony of saif conscience he sould demit the same. Quhilk answer being considirit be the brethrein becaus the said Mr Robert denyit the vyce of intemperance quhairwith he was bruittit, thay thocht gude and ordeinit Alexander Forester of Garden, Patrik Gillaspy, Mr James Pont, Umphra Cunynghame and Mr Alexander Iule or ony thre of thame to tak privie inquisition of the said brute and quhat thai find thairby to report agane.

The xvj day of Januar, 1581

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspy, Mr Robert Montgumrie, Mr William Stirling, elder, Robert Mentayth, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Alexander Fargy, Mr James Pont, Mr Alexander Iule, Johnne Broun, Umphra Cunynghame, Robert Alexander and William Norwall.

The catalog of the brethir of the exerceis and ordur to be observit be thame in follwing uthir in exerceis: Mr Robert Montgumrie, minister at Striviling [*deleted*]; James Andirson, minister at Striviling [*substituted*]; Mr James Pont, commissar of Dunblane; Mr Andro Grahame, Mr Andro Yung, ministeris at Dunblane; Mr William Stirling, m[inister] at Abirfull; Patrik Gillaspy, m[inister] at S. Ninianis kirk; Mr Alexander Iule, maister of grammir schole in Striviling; Alexander Fargy, m[inister] at Logy; Robert Mentayth, m[inister] at Alvayth; Johnne Broun [*deleted*]; Michael Lermouthe, m[inister] at Kilbryd; Patrik Layng, m[inister] at Clakmannan; Mr William Stirling, yunger at Kilmadok [*deleted*]; Mr Duncan Nevein, reder at Dumblane; William Stirling, exhortar at the Port;

Mr Alexander Chisholme m[inister] at Muthill; Mr Arthur Futhie, minister at Airthe; Mr Adame Merschell, minister at [Fossoway].

Ane penaltie appointit for absenttis ilk day of exerceis: It is appointit and ordenit with consent of the haill ministeris of the elderschip and brethir of exerceis undirsubscriyvand that gif ony minister or brothur of exerceis be absent fra the elderschip the day of exerceis sall pay for the first fault twa schillingis, secund fault dubillit and the thrid fault trepleit, and gif ony reder be absent he sall pay the first fault xii d., secund fault dubillit and the thrid fault trepleit without ane ressonablle excuis.

[Signatures:] Robert Menteht, Maistyr Robert Montgomrye [deleted], Patrik Layng, James Andersone [inserted], Mr James Pont, Mr Alexander Cheisholme, Mr William Striviling, Mr Adam Merschell, minister of Fosawy, Mr Alexander Iule, Androw Grayme, Johnne Broun, Mr Arthour Fethie, Patrik Gillaspie, M[ichaell] Lermont, Alexander Fargy, Mr Andro Young, Mr William Striviling.

[Added in margin: xijo Martii 1582. The brethir aggreis that Mr Adame Merschell be astricted only to keip the exerceis ilk xx dayis in somir and in wintir ilk xl dayis allanirle nochtwithstanding of this act.]

Minister of Abirfoull adjonit to the presbytery: Compeirit Mr William Stirling, minister at Abirfull and accepit upone him offeice and plaice in this presbytery be solem promeis in the presens of God, his hand beand haldin up promesing faithfullie to exerceis his offeice thairin conform to the Word of God unto the end of his lyf, as it sall plais God to blis him with his Holie Spirit, provyding that gif ane presbytery be heireftir placit be the kirk in Dunblane he mycht be fre of his said consent made to this presbytery.

Elderis adjonit for Striviling: The quhilk day compeirit Robert Alexander, baillie, and William Norwall, thesaurar, chosin be the kirk of Striviling to ber the offeice of elderis within the presbytery for the said kirk off Striviling with thais appointit of befor, quha be halding up of thair handis and solem promeis in the presens of God promesit faythfullie to exerceis thair officis thairin unto the end of thair lyvis and God sall minister to thame the giftis of his Spirit.

Elezabeth Millaris dilatioun of adultrie againis Henrie Grahame: Compeirit Elezabeth Millar in Gargunnok and grantit hir self to

have ane bairne vij oulkis syne or thairby to Henrie Grahame in Meikil Wod, quha as scho allegis denyis the said bairne and swa refusis to caus bapteis the same, and scho, being askit of the tyme and plaice the said Henrie haid to do with hir, confessit the first tyme to be a lytill befor Mertimes *anno* etc., lxxx yeiris in his awin corne barn afternone; uthir tymis scho rememberit nocht weill excep a lytill befor Witsonday last in his awin hall. The brethir ordanis the said Henrie to be warnit to answer to the said accusatioun.

The xxij day of Januar, 1581

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Andro Yung, Michael Lermonthe, Mr William Stirling, elder, Mr William Stirling, younger, Robert Mentayth, Alexander Fargy, Mr Alexander Iule, Mr James Pont, Johnne Broun, Alexander Forester of Garden, Umphra Cunyng-hame and William Norwall.

Jonet Crystesonis complent on Johnne Muschett: Compeirit Jonet Crysteson dwelland in Kincardin and complainit upone Johnne Muschett thair alleging that scho could nocht be quyt of the said Johnis trubble, bot that he lay in wait for hir at all tymis to deforce hir. The brethir ordanis the said Johnne to be summond to answer to the said complent.

Penultimo Januarij, 1581

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Robert Montgumrie, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Johnne Broun, Mr James Pont, Alexander Forester of Garden, Robert Alexander, William Norwall, Umphra Cunyng-hame, Mr Alexander Iule.

Muschett, Crystesoun, adulteraris: Johnne Muschet dwelland in the parrochin of Kincardin being lauchfullie summond conform to the ordinance of the last sessioun at the instance of Jonet Crystesone thair, compeirit the saidis personis and bayth thair allegencis being hard and considerit ordanis the said Johnne and Jonet to compeir befor us the sext day of Februar nixttocum and to bring with thame sufficient caution and souerty that nane of thame sall trubble, molest nor intys uthir to wickitnes in tymis cuming undir sic painis as the kirk sall lay unto thair chairge.

Adulteraris in Port: Ane summondis beand productit upone Elezabeth Moir, Thomas McIlchreist, Johnne McWilliame, Elezabeth Blare, Johnne McIlmichell and Jonet Metclathlem, adulteraris within the parrochin of the Port, deulie execute and in-dorsit chairgeing thame to answer at the instance of the kirk to the cryme of adultrie allegit committit be thame as the said summondis in the self beris, quhilkis personis being oft tymis callit and nocht compeirand, the brethir ordanis thame to be summondis the second to the effect foirsaid undir the pane of excommunicatioun, and ane summondis to be direct thairupone.

The sex day of Februar, 1581

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Robert Montgumrie, Johnne Duncanson, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Mr Andro Yung, Robert Mentayth, Mr Alexander Iule, Mr James Pont, Alexander Fargy, Mr William Sterling, yunger, Patrik Layng, Johnne Broun, Alexander Forester of Garden, Adame Spittell of Blairlogy, Robert Alexander, William Norwall, Umphra Cunynghame.

It was thocht gude be the brethrein that everie minister within the elderschip sould declair quhat text thai trettit in thir kirk and quhat autheris thai follwit. Sa mony as was present declairit as follwis.

Ministeris texttis: Mr Robert Montgumrie the first buke of Moses callit Genesis and first chaptur thair of and the xiiij Sondag of the cathechis, his commentaris [blank]. Mr Andro Yung is presentlie to begin the harmony of the 3 evangelistis and the [blank] Sondag of the cathechis, his commentaris Calvein, Beza and Gualteir on Louk. Patrik Gillaspie the first epistill of S. Johnne the v. chaptur and beginning thair of, his commentaris, Beza, Calvein, Gualteir. Alexander Fargy the xiiij chaptur of the evangelist Mark the 17 vers, his commentaris Marlorot, Calvein and Musculus. Robert Mentayth the actis of the Apostillis the v. chapter, his commentar, Brentius. Mr William Stirling, yunger, is ordeinit to begin the cathechis, his commentar [blank]. Patrik Layng is ordeinit to begin the artickillis of the beleve, his commentar [blank].

Jonet Crysteson, adulterarris cautioner: Compeirit Jonet Crysteson in Kincardin and her cautioner, conform to the ordinance of the last sessioun. The sessioun ordanis hir to caus hir cautioner becum actit

in the commissaris buikis of Dunblane that scho sall nocht perswad, trubble nor intys Johnne Muschet in Kincardin to adultrie with hir (as scho hes done of befoir) undir the pane of xl libis.

Muschet, disobedient: Inrespect Johnne Muschet brocht nocht his cautioner conform to the ordinance of the last sessioun, ordanis him to be summond to do the samin undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

Waltir, adulterar: Johnne Waltir in Touchadame, adultrar with Jonett Clark, being lauchfullie summond to answer quhy he hade nocht fulfillit his injunctionis gevin to him for the said adultrie compeirit the said Johnne and granttis that he had nocht satisfeit the ordinance of the synnodall assembleie in presenting him self to the stule of repentence everie Sondag and promesis to obey and do the sam in tymis cuming. Ordanis him to entir to the plaice of repentence the nixt Sondag and swa to continew, conform to the ordinance of the synnodall [generall, *deleted*] assembleie undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

Mr Robert Montgumrie: Compeirit Mr Robert Montgumrie and complainit of the previe inquisitioun takin of his lyf and conversatioun as ane wretein gevin in be him bearis, quhairof the tennour follwis. *The tennour of Mr Robert Montgumreis wreting producit:*

Grace, mercie and peace from God the fathir of our Lord Jesus Chryst. So be it.

Seing, brethrein, I have obeyit the ordinance of the generall assembleie and your desyris thairanent, and lykwys your previe admonitionis to me hes bein tane in gud partt, and our mutuall confirrencis bayth towardis doctrein and conversatioun (be Goddis graice to be amendit quhairof we haif all neid), it appeirit to me ye war weill satisfeit and that ye wald report the samin brotherlie and faythfullie to the presbytery (and gaif thankis to God thairfoir); how is it that ye haif enterit and be quhat rewill of the scripturis lauchfull and formall proceiding hes tane and intendis to tak privie inquisitioun of certane personis as ye plais (nocht fundit) againis me athir of doctrein or conversatioun, I nocht beand warnit nor callit for my entres to say for my self and my lauchfull defenss admittit gif neid war againis the juge, the inquest, the witnessis, the forme and memberis of ane informall proces, for na lauchfull proces can

be bot quhair thair is ane lauchfull juge, ane persewar and defender, caus and circumstancis requisit, tyme, plaice and ordur aggreing with the law, that is, gif it be ane inquest thai man be lauchfullie summondit and the partie hard and his lauchfull defenss, quhat may be said againis thame of the law (thir nottis) as partiall counsell, gevaris up of dilaionis, ingyarris of thame selffis to be examinat, hes bein accusaris of the partie, hes schawin thame selffis ennemeis be word and deid uttering thair maleice and invy alwayis be certane signis of heich contemptis, awcht nathir to be juge, inquest, witness nor ony lauchfull membir of a lauchfull proces againis the persoun defender quhair ony of thir is trew and may be varefeit nor yit can ony accusatioun be lauchfullie deducit and usit, bot quhair the defender is first hard and his lauchfull defenss, nathir yit aucht ane elder (that is ane prechur) to be accusit bot be the witness of twa or thre witnessis. Nane of thir is observit be you that I knaw and thairfor wald be teichit, thairfor na lauchfull proces can be usit meikilles ane lauchfull sentence pronuncit, and prayis you brethrein in the name of God to be war that ye oppin nocht ane dur to the wickit in the kirk of God be privie inquisitionis againis ony minister of his doctrein and conversatioun be certane previe personis, quha of maleice againis the ministeris zealle in doctrein and disceplein will speik sclanderuslie of him (yea of the maist godlie) unrequyrit meikill mair quhen thai ar requyrit, speacially quyetlie, he is a proud man, he is a gredie man, a partiall man, a flytter, a drunkard, a commone companioun at cairtis tabillis, the four houris pennie, and siclyk, for ma nor anew of sic slanderus and wickit personis is in everie congregatioun that regairdis nathir preiching nor disceplein, admonitioun nor correctioun ony way, and gif a ministeris preiching, conversatioun or disceplein salbe offerit to this previe inquisitioun without his knowlege, I dout nocht bot witnessis salbe fund againis him to condam him, and thairfor brethrein yit be war in tyme of sic prettickis, ye use with me that ye trubble nocht the maist part of the brethrein. Bot quhat ye can do to me aggreing with the scripturis be lauchfull and formall ordur cheritable and brothurlike handillit (as ye wald be done to) I am contenttit thairwith as I schew you in the beginning that I wald obey the kirk in all thingis that I aucht and that appertenit to the kirk. And of this I mervell quhairfra thir new accusationis or inquisitionis cumis now

(of new thingis or of auld thingis) mair nor affoir this lang tyme bygane, quhilk gif ony was of a trewth the thai can nocht to my knowlege, for gif ony personis had had ony thing againis me particular or yit the kirk ony way thay haide plaice, and I was reddie to answer nocht doutting brethrein (of our auld brutherlie familiaritie in God) bot ye will admit my lauchfull petitionis, that is, that I may be hard and my lauchfull defensis affoir ye conclude or pronounce ony act quhilk ye promesit to do, and that na accusar, witness, nor inquisitioun sould be againis me, bot sic as I sould know and to haif plaice to say againis thame according to equitie, gif ye say ye ar commandit be the kirk, the ordinance makis na mentioun of inquisitioun, bot of tryell of conversatioun, I undirstand be lauchfull meinis, as I have said, gif ye say the moderatour hes commandit be inquisitioun he is nocht abone the ordinance of the generall assemblie nor yit interpretour thairto. Gif ye stand at the word inquisitioun, ye haif na mair for you bot be ane inquest. Bot quha sall cheis thame, quhat nummir, quhat personis, quhat forme, quhat circumstancis, tyme, plaice and ordur, quhidder privellie or publictlie, quhiddir be the haill presbytery or be ane part, and quha sall cheis that part, nane of thir circumstancis is prescryvit to you in wrett for your warrand, and thairfor, bretherein, ye haif passit or intendis to pas farther nor is prescryvit to you. Thismekill brothurlike that ye haif forder respect to the offeice I bair and the sclandir of the Word in my waik persone (as we ar all) nor to serce forther nor ye wald be sercit upone ony occasioun quhair ye have nocht the reull of the scriptouris and ane lauchfull and formall proceeding as becumis brethrein in Chryst. I prays God that in my persone I am callit to the lycht for tryell of my doctrein, quhilk is darrer to me nor my lyf and examinat of my conversatioun quhairunto trewlie I have ansorit, praying God that the kirk may be purgit in us all (speciallie ministeris) for thair is ma faulttis allegit againis me within this schort tyme nor all the tyme I have travellit the ministry this xx yeiris bygane to Goddis glorie, the weill of his kirk and to the confort of thame to quhom I was appointit, as my conscience beris me witnes, and the faythfull report of the faythfull nocht dowting bot ye will tak this in gude part my brethir be remembrance simple proponit and pondir the same as the mater cravis being ane com-mone caus amangis brethrein, and interpret all thingis in the best

part, and quhair ye dout and speiris, I sall faythfullie declair, or quhair ambiguitie appeiris, I sall expone and declair my mynd as I can cheritable and the Lord blis you and your assemblie. Amen.

Quhilk wreting being red and considderit the brethrein promesit to answer thairto the nixt sessioun day, viz., the xiiij of this instant. The same day Mr Robert Montgumrie desyris certane actis concerning him to be extract to him. The brethrein ordanis the said Mr Robert to mak ane catholog of sic actis as he desyris and thai sall gif answer thairto.

Margaret Cairtour allegit fornicatour: Compeirit Margaret Cairtour and being accusit of adultrie with James Forester in Kipmade, scho denyis the adultrie bot grantis hir with bairne gottin in fornicatioun as scho allegis be Henrie Cunynghame, now in Dunbartane, and that in Murrayis wod within the parrochin of Sanct Niniane. The sessioun ordanis the said Margaret to caus the said Henrie to compeir befor thame the xx day of this instant to confes the said bairne or than gif he may nocht cum him self that he compeir befor the sessioun of the kirk of Dunbartane and confes the same and bring to us the said day ane act of the said sessioun upone his confessioun subscriyvit be the minister of Dunbartane and be the said Henry together with the clark of the said sessioun.

The xiiij day of Februar, 1581

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Robert Montgumrie, Michael Learmonthe, Patrik Layng, Alexander Fargy, Robert Mentayth, Mr James Pontt, Mr Alexander Iule, Johnne Broun, Alexander Forester of Garden, Johnne Schaw of Bruigh, Adame Spittell of Blair Logy, Umphra Cunynghame, Robert Alexander and William Norwall.

The quhilk day being appointit to gif answer to Mr Robert Montgumreis wreting gevin in befor the brethrein in the last sessioun, the brethrein ansorit as follwis in wrett:

Answer to Mr Robert Montgumreis wreting: Gif the ordinance of the generall assemblie be obeyit or nocht lat the generall assemblie be juge. We sall treulie report quhat is done. As to our privie inquisitioun, we will answer to the assembleis provincially or generall. Quhair ye say that, that manir of inquisitioun is dangerous, lat him

that is giltie feir. As to ony proces deducit befoir us, athir tuiching your lyf or doctrein, thair is nane intentit as yit and sasone as ony beis intentit (according to our promeis) ye sall have plaice to use your lauchfull defenss againis athir juge, partie or witness. We thank you of your admonitionis and promeis to serce you na farther nor we wald be sercit.

Henrie Graham: The same day ane summondis lauchfullie execute and indorsit beand productit upone Henrie Grahame as the same beris, compeirit the said Henrie and being accusit of adultrie committit be him with Elezebeth Millar denyit the same and affermit that he had nevir carnall dell with the said Elezebeth. The brethir remittis the said Henrie to farther tryell and ordanis the said Elezebeth to be summond to mak gude hir delatioun gevin in againis the said Henrie.

Adulteraris in S. Ninianis parrochin: The quhilk day ane summondis lauchfullie execute and indorsit productit upone Johnne Home in Toucht, Robert Millar thair, Margaret Coir thair, incesteus and adulteraris within S. Ninianis parrochin, to answer at the instance of the kirk quhy thai haid nocht fulfillit thair injunctionis ressavit fra the synnodall assemblie for the saidis crymis, the saidis personis being oft tymis callit, compeirit nocht, and thairfor ordanis thame to be summond the secund tyme to the effect foirsaid undir the pane of excommunicatioun.

James McKie: The quhilk day compeirit James McKie in Doun of Mentayth and desyrit his bairne gottin, as he allegit, in fornicatioun with Jane Stewart [Jonet Sandelandis, *deleted*] to be baptezit, promesing to mak his repentence as he salbe commandit. The brethir, undirstanding a brute to be rissin of the said James that his wyf callit Jonet Sandelandis was levand the tyme he begat the bairne upone the said Jane, could nocht weill prescryve repentence unto him unto the tyme thai knew quhethir it was adultrie or fornicatioun, and thairfor ordanis him to bring testimoniall of the deathe of his wyf betuix and the vj day of Merche nixt, and also ordanis Michael Lermonthe to bapteis the said bairne, takand sufficient cautioun of the said James that he sall obey sic disceplein of the kirk as salbe appointit to him undir the paine of x libis.

Lowrence Barclay, Margaret Drummond: Compeirit Lowrence Barclay and Margaret Drummond and ernistlie desyrit that the

sclandir rissin of thame bayth towardis thair mariage, the baptesin of thair last bairne, and the brute rasi towardis the fathir thair of mycht be tryit befor us. The brethrein ansurit that that actioun at the said Margaretis desyr was refarrit to the tryell of the presbytery of Edinburgh, and swa thai could be na juge thairto unles the same war remittit agane be the said presbytery of Edinburgh to thame. The said Lowrence replyit that that was done without his knowlege and allegit that the caus quhairfor the said Margaret desyrit the mater to be tryit befor the said sessioun of Edinburgh was becaus scho had thane presentlie ado in the law befor the lordis of sessioun and swa mycht nocht keip thair sessioun and ouris bayth, bot now hir actionis befor the lordis being continewit to *Junij* and scho myndit to remane heir, bayth the said Lowrence and scho willinglie submittit thame self to the jurisdiction of this presbytery, and ernstlie desyris ane wreting to be made in name of the presbytery to the presbytery of Edinburgh that the said actioun may be remittit hethir inrespect also the said Margaret is grit with bairne and may nocht weill travell. The brethrein ordanis ane wreting to be made in thair name and direct to the said presbytery of Edinburgh to the effect fairsaid.

The quhilk day Mr Robert Montgumrie gaif in, in catholog, certan actis desyrit of him of befor to be extractit. The brethrein ordanis Mr James Pont, Umphra Cunynghame and Patrik Gillaspie to vesie the saidis actis and being fund to appertein to him ordanis thame to be extract.

The xx day of Februar, 1581

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, Mr William Stirling, Mr Andro Yung, Alexander Fargy, Robert Mentayth, Mr William Stirling, yunger, Patrik Layng, Andro Forester, William Stirling, Mr James Pont, Johnne Broun, William Norwall, Mr Alexander Iule, Robert Alexander, Johnne Schaw of Bruigh, William Drummond, minister of Creif.

Ministeris texttis: Mr William Stirling, elder, and William Stirling in Port being askit quhat text thai teiche and quhat commentaris thai follw, answer as follwis. Mr William Stirling, elder, teichis the artickillis of the beleif, his commentar Calvinis

Institutionis. William Stirling teichis the commandementtis; commentar, Institutionis of Calvein and Petir Verott.

Marione Stalkaris complent on hir husband: Compeirit Marione Stalkar and complanit that Johnne Huchoun, hir husband, wald nocht ressave hir in hous with him and interteny hir as becumis him to do to his wyf. The brethrein ordanis the said Johnne to be summond to answer at the instance of the kirk to heir and se him self decernit to ressave in hous with him the said Marione Stalkar and interteny hir, as becumis him of Goddis law to do to his wyf, or ellis to schaw ane ressonable caus quhy, undir the paine of disobedience.

Margaret Cairtour: The quhilk day being assignit to Margaret Cairtour to caus Henrie Cunynghame compeir befor us to gif his declaratioun quethir scho was with bairne to him as scho allegit or nocht or than to produce ane act of the sessioun of Dunbartane conteining his declaratioun foirsaid, and the said Margaret being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, and thairfor ordanis hir yit as of befor to be summond to caus the said Henrie Cunynghame compeir befor us the xxvij day of Februar instant to the effect foirsaid or thane to bring ane act fra the sessioun of Dunbartane, as said is, with certificatioun and scho failze, we will proceed to the tryell of adultrie againis hir.

Henrie Grahame and Elezabeth Millaris: The same day the sessioun ordanis Henrie Grahame in Meikillwod and Elezabeth Millar to be summond to heir farther tryell tane in the accusatioun of adultrie gevin in be the said Elezabeth againis him undir the paine of disobedience.

Complent of Mr Andro Yung: The same day Mr Andro Yung, minister at Dunblane, complanit that certane of his parrochinaris refusit to subscriye the kingis confessioun of faithe, thairfor ordanis all thais that refusis the same to be summond befor us to heir and se thame selfis decernit to subscriye the same undir the pane of the sensuris of the kirk.

The xxvij day of Februar, 1581

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Andro Yung, Mr William Stirling, elder, and Mr William Stirling, yunger, Patrik Layng, Johnne

Broun, Mr Alexander Iule, Alexander Fargy, Alexander Forester of Garden.

Text of the exerceis: The brethir thinkis gude and hes ordeinit (that the secund epistill wrettin to the Corrinthianis beand endit, quhilk now is trettit in the exerceis), the epistill to the Gallathianis salbe intreatit nixt.

Adulteraris in the parrochin of S. Niniane: The quhilk [day] ane summondis producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Thomas Johneson in Poppiltreis and Jonet Murray, dochtir to William Murray in Touchadame, adulteraris, to compeir this day to heir and se thame selffis decernit adulteraris and to be subject to the discipline of the kirk thairfoir, compeirit the saidis Thomas and Jonet and confessit thame selffis adulteraris and submittis thame selffis to the discipline of the kirk thairfoir. The brethir ordanis thame to compeir befor the sinnodall assemblie of Lothian, Mers and Striviling scheir to be haldin in Edinburgh the iij day of Apryll nixttocum to ressave thair injunctionis, conform to the ordinance of the generall assemblie.

Johnne Huchoun chairgit for adherens: The same day ane summondis producit dewlie execute and indorsit upone Johnne Huchoun, chairgeing him to answer at the instance of the kirk quhy he will nocht ressave Marione Stalkar, his wyf, in hous with him and interteny hir as becumis him, and farder to heir and se him self decernit to do the same, compeirit the said Johnne and allegit he aucht nocht to ressave the said Marione, his allegit spous, in hous with him nor interteny hir as his wyf becaus scho hes wickitie passit away fra him againis his will and playit the harlet sensyne and gottin ane bairn by him with ane uther man. *Marione Stalkar*: Quhairof the said Marione being accusit, grantit that scho was deforcit againis hir will be ane man quhome scho knawis nocht and hade born ane bairne to him and thairfor allegit the same to be na adultrie becaus scho was forcit againis hir will. The brethir undirstanding that the mater of the said Marione hes bein tryit befor the brethrein of Dunblane thairfor ordainis the proces led befor thame to be producit befor us be the said Margaret for farder tryell in the mater.

Adulteraris in the parrochin of Clakmannan: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit dewlie execute and indorsit upone James

Tailzour, Jonet Aickein, Johnne Seath, Jonet Wallace, David Burn, adulteraris within the parrochin of Clakmannan, to heir and se thame self decernit to have committit adultrie and to obey the disceplein of the kirk thairfoir undir the paine of disobedience, quhilk personis being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, thairfor ordanis thame to be summond of new undir the paine of excommunication.

Lowrence Barclay, Margaret Drummond: The quhilk day ane wreting of the presbytery of Edinburgh beand productit contening ane answer of our wreting send unto thame tuiching the sclandir rasit of Lowrence Barclay and Margaret Drummond be the quhilk wretein the said brethir of Edinburgh remittit agane the said sclandir to be tryit befoir us as the sam in the self beris. The same day the said Lowrence and Margaret being askit gif thai war mareit or nocht and sorit [*sic*] that thair is promeis of mariage betuix thame and thair bannis lauchfullie proclamit bot was nocht mareit as yit, and promeis to compleit mariage betuix and the xv day of Apryll. The brethrein ordanis thame bayth to mak publict repentence in the kirk of Striviling for fornicatioun committit be thame befoir the compleiting of thair mariage. Secundlie, the said Lowrence being askit gif he was fathir to the bairn, quhair of the said Margaret was last delyverit, or nocht, he confessit he was fathir to the same. Thridlie, the saidis Lowrence and Margaret being askit quha baptesit the said bairne and in quhat plaice the same was baptezit, ansorit the said Lowrence that he knew nocht quhair or quhom be the said bairn was baptezit becaus he was nocht in thir parttis for the tyme. The said Margaret ansorit that the said bairne was baptezit in hir awin hous be ane mane brocht thair be hir brethir, William and David Drummondis, quhais name scho knew nocht. The brethir ordanis the said Margaret to gett tryell of the manis name and quhair he dwellis and also ordanis the minister of Incheaffray to be advertesit to seik tryell of the said man be the saidis William and David Drummondis, his parrochinaris.

Margaret Cairtour: Ane wreting beand productit in Margaret Cairtouris name send fra the minister and eldaris of Dunbartane schawand that Henrie Cunynghame confessit the said Margaret to be with bairne to him as the same in the self beris. The brethir tuke to advys heirwith to the nixt sessioun.

Mr Robert Montgumrie: The same day the brethrein was advertesit be ane wreting send fra the brethrein of Edinburgh befor specefeit that thair was letters alreddie directit furth at the desyr of Mr Robert Montgumrie to chairge the brethrein of Glasgw to admit him to the archebischoprik thair of, quhilk thing the brethrein undirstanding to be contrarie to the act of the generall assemblie, and also his awin promeis made befor thame, ordanis that sasone as the saidis letters salbe put to executioun chairgeing the brethrein of Glasgw thairwith that ane summondis be direct to chairge the said Mr Robert to compeir befor thame to heir and se him self decernit to be excommunicat becaus that he wittinglie and willinglie hes brokin the said act of the generall assemblie concerning the trublein of the brethrein of Glasgw with his admissioun to the archebischoprik thair of, and falsefeing of his awin promeis fairsaid made befor thame, with certificatioun that the brethrein will decern the sentence of excommunicatioun to be pronuncit againis him with advys of the brethrein conteinit in the act of the generall assemblie befor specefeit in caice he laif nocht the sute of the said archebischoprik and trubling of his brethrein with his admissioun thairunto and als refuse to accep the said archebischoprik upone him, becaus the sam is ane functioun quhilk hes na warrand in the Word of God.

The vj day of Merche, 1581

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Andro Yung, Thomas Swintoun, Michael Lermonte, Patrik Layng, Robert Mentayth, Alexander Fargy, Johnne Broun, Mr Alexander Iule, Mr William Stirling, yunger, William Stirling, Alexander Forester of Garden, Johnne Schaw of Bruigh, Alexander Patersoun [William Stirling, *deleted*], William Norwall, Robert Alexander.

Huchoun, Stalkar: The brethrein continewis the avysment of the actioun betuix Johnne Huchoun and Marione Stalkar to the sicht of the proces led thairintill befor the brethrein of Dunblane.

Henrie Graham and Elezabeth Millar: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Henrie Graham and Elezabeth Millar to haif hard farther tryell tane in the actioun of adultrie allegit and persewit be the said Elezabeth *contra* him, the said Henrie being oftintymis callit, compeirit nocht.

Ordanis him to be summond of new undir the pane of excommunicatioun and the said Elezabeth to be wairnit thairto.

Adulteraris in S. Ninianis parrochin: The quhilk day ane summond is beand productit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Robert Millar, adulterar, Johnne Home and Margaret Coir, incesteus, within S. Ninianis parrochun to answer quhy thai satisfeit nocht the kirk for adultrie and incest committit be thame undir the paine of excommunicatioun, quhilk personis being oft tymis callit and nocht compeirit, ordanis thame to be summond of new to heir and se thame selffis decernit to be excommunicat for thair contemp.

Adulteraris in Tillicultrie and Alwayth: The quhilk day ane summond is beand productit upone James Hudson in Aluathe, husband to Issobell Craig, Issobell Fargy, adulteraris, William Watt in Dillecultrie [*sic*] and Jonet Dugy, incesteus, to heir and se thame self decernit to satisfie the kirk for adultrie and incest committit be thame undir the paine of disobedience, compeirit the said James Hudson and grantis adultrie committit be him with Issobell Fargy, quhairfor the brethrein ordanis him to compeir befor the synnodall assembleie in Edinburgh the iij day of Aprill nixtocum to ressave his injunctionis for the said adultrie. The remanent personis foirsaidis being oft tymis callit and nocht compeirit, the brethrein ordanis thame to be summond of new undir the pane of excommunicatioun. The quhilk day Patrik Bauchok become cautioner and souertie that Margaret Cairtour sall satisfie the kirk of S. Niniance for fornicatioun committit be hir with Henrie Cunynghame in the said parrochin. Thairfor the brethrein ordanit the minister of the said kirk to bapteis the bairne gottin betuix thame.

Complent on Mr Robert Montgumrie: The quhilk day compeirit William Norwall, ane of the elderis of the kirk of Striviling, and in name of the particuler elderschip thair of havalie complainit of Mr Robert Montgumreis oft and frequent absence fra his chairge without lycence obteinis contrarie to his awin promeis and of his intollarable negligence in preiching of the Word, ministratioun of the sacramentis and using of disceplein quhair of albeit he was oft tymis admonesit, yit thair was na amendiment made, and quhairfor desyris that ordur may be tane with him be the brethrein that thair kirk be nocht neglectit in tymis cuming.

At Striviling the xiiij day of Merche, 1581

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Andro Yung, Mr William Stirling, elder, Mr William Stirling, yunger, Alexander Fargy, Michael Lermonthe, Patrik Layng, ministeris; Mr James Pont, Mr Alexander Iule, Johnne Broun, Alexander Forester of Garden, Robert Alexander, William Norwall, Duncane Narne and William Scott, exhortar at Callender.

Suspentioun of Mr Robert Montgumrie: The quhilk day the brethrein having deiplic considerit and diligentlie wyit the havie complent of the elderis of the kirk of Striviling concerning the frequent absence of Mr Robert Montgumrie frome his chairge without ony lycence askit or gevin, and his intollarable negligence in preiching of the Word, ministratioun of the sacramentis and usein of discipline, quhairof being oftin tymis admonesit hes never pressit to amend nor keipit ony promeis made thairanent, bot be the contrar dois occupy him self contenwallie in warldlie effairis and ungodlie suittis of unlauchfull honouris, preeminence and riches expres againis the Word of God, the actis of the generall assemblie and dewatie of ane trew pastour, yea, and his awin promeis made bayth privatlie and oppinlie in our assemblie as ane act made thairupone at mair lynthe bearis and thairby to satisfie his insatiablie greid and stinking pryd dois quhat lvis in him to wraik his brethrein to steir up ane lamentable schisme and trublle in the kirk of God and this commone wealthe, and to inflame the hairttis of our souverane lord and his cheif nobilitie againis his maist faythfull subjectis, quhilk to performe he daylie mair and mair insistis and hade alreddie performit war nocht the ardent zeall and singular love his majestie beris to the undoutit trewth of God and professuris thair of. Thir wickit attemptis being mair thane manifest and in that be mony and sindrie experiencis it may weill appeir that he hes lytill or na regaird of faithe, promeis or offeice without cair, love and zeall toward the kirk of God and professioun of his Word, sclanderus in lyf and conversatioun without feilling of conscience in his calling, quhair of proceeding na apperance of amendement swa that the slandir daylie incressis in his persone to the gret greif of all gude men, and joy to the commone ennemeis of the cros of Christ, and that he in the meane sasone ather contenuallie absentis him self in runing furth his

cours, or thane be indirect meinis geis about to stay all proceeding againis him for sic enorme vycis. Thairfore the brethrein myndfull quhat sould be thair dewattie in removing sic oppin sclandir and punesing sa abominable faultis partlie alreddie tryit and publeist partlie to be detectid and schawin in the awin tyme according to the powar committit to thame be the Word of God thocht the said Mr Robert worthie to be suspendit and suspendis him from all functioun in the kirk of God and exerceis of ony part of the ministrie thair of ay and quhill be humbill repentence he satisfie for the said crymis to the contentment of the kirk of God and faithfull in the same quhome he hes grevously offendit and ordanis him to be summond to compeir befor the generall assemblie to be haldin in Sanctandrus the xxiiij day of Aprill nixttocum the thrid day of the said assemblie, viz., the xxvij day of Aprill foirsaid to se this sentence approvit or inlairgit incaice he perseveir in his wickit mynd and purpos and alsua ordanis intimatioun to be made to him of this suspentioun as effeiris.

Adulteraris in Tullicultrie: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone William Watt in Tullicultrie and Jonet Dugy, adulteraris and incestus personis, chairgeing thame to answer this day at the instance of the kirk and to heir and se thame selfis decernit to satisfie the kirk for incest and adultrie committit be thame undir the paine of excommunicatioun, quhilkis personis being oft tymis callit and nocht compeirit, thairfor ordanis thame to be summond of new to heir and se thame selfis decernit to be excommunicatt for thair contemp with certificatioun gif thay compeir nocht we will proceid to the sentence of excommunicatioun againis thame.

Adulteraris in Clakmannan: The same day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone James Tailzour, Jonet Aickein, Johnne Seath, Jonet Wallace and David Burn, dwelland within the parrochin of Clakmannan, chairgeing thame to compeir this day to answer at the instance of the kirk and to heir and se thame selfis decernit to have committit adultrie and to obey the disceplein of the kirk thairfoir undir the paine of excommunicatioun, quhilkis personis being oft tymis callit and nocht compeirit, thairfore ordanis thame to be summond of new to heir and se thame selfis respective decernit to be excommunicat for thair contemp,

with certificatioun gif thai compeir nocht we will proceed to the sentence of excommunicatioun againis thame.

At Striviling the xx day of Merche, 1581

Presentes: Alexander Fargy, Mr William Stirling, yunger, Michaell Lermonthe, Patrik Layng, ministeris; Johnne Durie, minister at Edinburgh, David Fergusone, minister at Dunfarmling, Johnne Dikis, minister at Culros, Mr Duncane Nevein, Johnne Broun, William Stirling, William Scott, Mr James Pont, Alexander Forester of Garden, Adame Spittell of Blair Logy, Umphra Cunyng-hame, commissar of Striviling, Alexander Patersone, Duncane Narne at Bannaburne and William Norwall.

Mr Robert Montgumrie: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Mr Robert Montgumrie chairgeing him to compeir this day to heir and se him self decernit to be excommunicat as the summondis beris in the self, the said Mr Robert being oft tymis callit and nocht compeirit, the brethrein findis that justlie thai mycht proceed againis him, yit becaus that ane gude part of thair numbir was absent and speciallie Johnne Duncanson, ane appointit be the act of the generall assembleie to that effect, thocht gude that the day of farther proceeding againis the said Mr Robert sould be continewit that the kingis majestie mycht be advertesit of thair unreverent handling be the said Mr Robert and that eftir the knowlege of his hienes gudewill and mynd thairintill ordanis the said Mr Robert to be summond *de novo* unto the synnodall assembleie of the elderschippis of Edinburgh, Dalkayth, Linlythquo and Striviling to be haldin in Edinburgh the iij day of Aprill nixtocum to heir and se him self decernit to be excommunicat for his wilfull and contempteus breking of the actis of the generall assembleie contravening of his awin promeis made befor us and utheris notorius crymis that the said assembleie hes to lay unto his chairge or thane to schaw ane ressonable caus quhy the samin sould nocht be done with certificatioun and he compeir nocht the said assembleie will decern and ordane the sentence of excommunicatioun to be pronuncit againis him.

At Striviling the xxvij day of Merche, 1582

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, Johnne Duncansone, Mr Andro Yung, Mr William Stirling, elder, Patrik Layng, Michael Lermouthe, Robert Mentayth, Thomas Swintoun, Andro Forester, ministeris; Mr William Stirling, yunger, Mr Alexander Iule, William Scot, Mr Duncane Nevein, Adame, commendatar of Cambuskynnethe, Alexander Forester of Garden, Adame Spittell of Blair Logy, Umphra Cunynghame, commissar of Striviling, Duncane Narne, Mr Johnne Stewart, provest off Striviling, and Robert Alexander.

Mr Robert Montgumrie: The quhilk day the brethrein being advertesit of the kingis majesteis [mynd, *deleted*] gude will concerning thair procedingis againis Mr Robert Montgumrie bayth be ane wreting send to thame be Johnne Dury and als be Johnne Duncansonis awin report thocht gude and ordanis ane summondis be direct to summond the said Mr Robert to compeir befor the synnodall assemblee at Edinburgh the iij day of Aprill nixt according to the ordinance conteinit in the act made thairanent in thair last sessioun.

At Striviling the x day of Aprill, 1582

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, Michael Lermouthe, Alexander Fargy, Patrik Layng, Mr Alexander Chisholme, ministeris; Mr James Pont, Mr Alexander Iule, Mr William Stirling, yunger, Alexander Forester of Garden, Umphra Cunynghame, Alexander Patersone, William Norwall and Robert Alexander.

Commissionaris to the nixt generall assemblee: The brethrein of the presbytery of Striviling electit and nominat Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Andro Yung and Mr William Stirling ministers; Alexander Bruce of Airthe or his sone Mr Robert Bruce, James Kinros of Kippenros, Umphra Cunynghame, commissar of Striviling and Mr James Pont, commissar of Dunblane, barronis and gentill men, commissionaris to the nixt generall assemblee to be haldin in Sanctandrus the xxiiij day of Aprill instant for the said presbytery to concur with the said assemblee for treatting of thais thingis concerning the weill and gude ordur to be observit within the kirkis of the said presbytery and als quhatsumevir thingis salbe trettit in the said assemblee that may tend

to the glorie of God and weill of his haill kirk plantit of his mercie within this realme.

Mr Andro Grahame: The same day ordanis Mr Andro Grahame, minister at Dunblane, to be summond to the nixt generall assemblie for negligence in his offeice and sic uthir thingis as the said assemblie wald lay unto his chairge conform to the ordinance of the provinciall assemblie.

Johnne Huchoun: The same day the brethir ordanis ane summondis to be direct to chairge Johnne Huchoun in Alwayth to compeir befor thair sessioun to heir and se him self decernit to adheir to Marione Stalkar, his spous, or ellis to intent actioun of divorcement againis hir befor the commissaris of Edinburgh.

At Striviling the xvij day of Aprill, 1582

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, Johnne Duncansone, Mr Johnne Porterfeild, Alexander Fargy, Mr William Stirling, elder, Mr William Stirling, yunger, Patrik Layng, Mr Alexander Iule, William Stirling, Johnne Broun, Alexander Forester of Garden and Duncane Narne.

Huchoun and Stalkar: The quhilk day ane summondis beand productit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Johnne Huchoun in Tullicultrie chairgeing him to compeir this samin day to heir and se him self decernit to adheir to Marione Stalkar, his spous, and to interteny hir as his lauchfull wyf as becumis him or ellis to intent actioun of divorcement againis hir befor the commissaris of Edinburgh, compeirit personallie the saidis Johnne Huchoun and Marione Stalkar, the brethir being weill avysit with the allegencis made be ather of the saidis parteis decernis and ordanis the said Johnne Huchoun to ressave the said Marione in hous with him and to adheir unto hir as becumis ane faithfull husband to his wyf or ellis to produce sufficient testimoniall befor the brethrein betwix and the xv day of May nixt that he hes intentit actioun of divorcement againis hir befor the commissaris of Edinburgh.

Intimatioun of the act of suspentioun made to Mr Robert Montgumry: The quhilk day William Stevinsone being askit gif he hade made intimatioun to Mr Robert Montgumrie of the act of suspentioun pronuncit againis him the xij of Merche last conforme to the

command gevin to the said William thairanent, the said William affermit that he made intimatioun thair of to the said Mr Robert personallie apprehendit and delyverit him ane copie of the said act of suspentioun quha ressavit the samin and that upone the penult of Merche anno 1582 in presens of Johnne Murray, Patrik Kinros, Johnne Hodge and [blank] McLintok.

Cautioner for Elezabeth Millar: The samin day compeirit Elezabeth Millar and ernistlie desyrit hir bairne to be baptezit promesing to satisfie the kirk eftir tryell of hir fault athir as adultrix or fornicatrix and thairupone Robert Alexander, baillie, become cautioner inrespect quhair of the brethir ordanis the said Elezabethis bairne to be baptezit.

Excommunicatioun decernit againis adulteraris in Clakmannan: The quhilk day ane summondis producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone James Tailzour, Jonet Aicken, Johnne Seath, Jonet Wallace and David Burne, adulteraris, within the parrochin of Clakmannan chairgeing thame to compeir the said day to heir and se thame selfis and ilk ane of thame decernit to be excommunicat for thair contemp and disobedience to the voice of the kirk, quhilkis personis being oft tymis callit and nocht compeirid, and the brethrein having diligentie wyit and deiplic consederit thair grit obstinacie and manifest contemp of the lauchfull chairgis of the kirk besyd the odious cryme of adultrie committit be thame ordanis and decernis the saidis personis to be excommunicat and cuttit of fra the societie of Christis kirk and to be delyverit into the handis of the devill for the destructioun off thair flesche that thair saullis may be saif in the day of the Lord Jesus.

At Striviling the viij day of May, 1582

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, Mr William Stirling elder, Mr Andro Yung, Alexander Fargy, Robert Mentayth, Michael Lermonthe, Thomas Swintoun, Patrik Layng, ministeris; Mr James Pont, Mr William Stirling, yunger, Johnne Broun, William Norwall and Robert Alexander.

Exerceis beginnis at ix houris: The same day the brethir ordanis the exerceis to begin fra this furthe at ix houris.

At Striviling the xv day of May, 1582

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Andro Yung, Thomas Swintoun, Mr Adame Merschell, Patrik Layng, Alexander Fargy, Mr Alexander Iule, Mr James Pont, Johnne Broun, Umphra Cunynghame.

Moderatour chosin: The quhilk day Mr Andro Yung be vot of the brethrein was chosin moderatour to the nixt provinciall of assembleie.

Hudson, adulterar in Alvaythe: The quhilk day compeirit James Hudson in Alveythe and grantit his offence and negligence in nocht compeiring befor the last provinciall assembleie according to his promeis and promesis to present him self befor the nixt provinciall assembleie of Edinburgh and obey the injunctionis of the said assembleie for the cryme of adultrie committit be him with Issobell Fargy. Farther, the said James desyrit the bairn gottin in adultrie be him to be baptezit. The brethir ordanis the said James to find cautioun actit in the commissaris buikis of Striviling for obeying of the premis undir the pane of xl libis., and thaireftir his bairne to be baptezit.

Robert Cousland, sclanderus: The quhilk day it being complainit to the sessioun be the brethir of the particular elderschip of the kirk of Striviling that Robert Cousland, burges of Striviling, hade reteinit in hous with him Issobell Olephant, nochtwithstanding that he was ordeinit be thame to have put hir away a lang tyme syne berassone thair being togethir was varie sclanderus to the haill toun, the said Robert being personallie present, the brethir ordanis him to remove the said Issobell *simpliciter* fra his hous betuix and the xx day of May instant, and to have na mair cumpany nor familiarity with hir, nathir ony manir of societie in eating, drinking or talking in tymis cuming with certificatioun and he failze, the brethir will ordane the sentence of excommunicatioun to be pronuncit againis him.

At Striviling the xxij day of May, 1582

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, Johnne Duncanson, Alexander Fargy, Robert Mentayth, Michaell Lermonthe, Patrik Layng, ministeris; Mr James Pont, Mr Alexander Iule, Johnne Broun, Adame, commendatar of Cambuskynnethe, Umphra Cunynghame, commissar

of Striviling, and Robert Alexander, bailly; Mr William Moreson quha exerceisit.

Generall fast: The same day Patrik Gillaspie, moderatour, this day made intimatioun to the brethrein that thair was appointit be the generall kirk ane generall fast thruch this haill realme to be keipit on the first and secund Sondagis of *Junij* nixt. Thairfor exhortit the haill brethrein that thai caus the samin to be observit ilk ane within thair awin parrochin thruch the boundis of this elderschip and that doctrein be teichit meit and expedient thairfoir.

At Striviling the xxix day of May, 1582

Presentes: Mr Andro Yung, Johnne Duncanson, Thomas Swintoun, Alexander Fargy, Mr William Stirling, elder, Patrik Gillaspie, ministeris; Mr James Pont, Mr Alexander Iule, Johnne Broun, Mr William Moreson, Alexander Forester of Garden and Umphra Cunynghame, commissar of Striviling.

Mr Andro Grahame: The brethir, considdering the lang absence of Mr Andro Grahame fra his kirk of Dunblane and negligence of his flock, ordanis the said Mr Andro to be summond to compeir befoir thame for the samin and sic uthir thingis as the kirk hes to lay unto his chairge and ane summondis to be direct heirupone.

At Striviling the xij day of *Junij*, 1582

Presentes: Mr Andro Yung, Johnne Duncansone, Patrik Gillaspie, Alexander Fargy, Michael Lermonthe, Robert Mentayth, Patrik Layng, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iule, Mr Johnne Broun, Mr William Moreson and Robert Alexander.

The same day James Dundas made the exerceis.

James Dalmahoy: The brethrein having considderit and diligentlie wyit the accusationis alreddy layit againis James Dalmahoy, minister, and his answeris made thairto, ordanis ane summondis to be direct for summonding of the said James to compeir befoir thame to answer to sic uthir thingis as the kirk hes to lay unto his chairge and to heir and se thair avysment pronuncit upone the haill undir the paine of disobedience.

James McKie: The quhilk day ane summond is beand product lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone James McKie in Doun of Mentaythe, allegit adulterar with Jane Stewart, chairgeing him to answer this day at the instance of the kirk for the samin and to heir and se him self decernit to obey and satisfie the disceplein of the kirk thairfor undir the paine of disobedience, quhilk James being oft tymis callit and nocht compeirit, thairfor ordanis him to be summond of new to the effect fairsaid undir the paine of excommunicatioun with certificatioun and he failze, we will proceed againis him according to the Word of God and disceplein of the kirk havand the warrand thairin.

At Striviling the xix day of *Junij*, 1582

Presentes: Mr Andro Yung, Patrik Gillaspie, Robert Mentayth, Patrik Layng, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iule, Mr James Pont, Mr Johnne Broun, Adame, commendatar of Cambuskynnethe, Umphra Cunynghame, commissar of Striviling, and Robert Alexander, bailly.

James Leckie, Marjorie Erskine: The quhilk day ane summond is beand product lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone James Lecky and Marjorie Erskine chairgeing thame to haif compeirit this day to have hard and sein thame selfis decernit to have committit adultrie and to undirly and obey the ordinance of the kirk thairfor undir the paine of disobedience, quhilk personis being oft tymis callit and nocht compeirit, thairfor ordanis thame to be summond of new to the effect fairsaid undir the paine of excommunicatioun with certificatioun and thai failze we will proceed againis thame according to the Word of God and disceplein of the kirk havand the warrand thairin.

Commissionaris to the generall assemblee: The brethrein of the presbytery of Striviling electit and nominat Patrik Gillaspie and Mr Andro Yung, ministeris, commissioneris to the nixt generall assemblee to be haldin in Edinburgh the [blank] day of *Junij* instant for the said presbytery to concur with the said assemblee for treating of thais thingis concerning the weill and gude ordur to be observit within the kirkis of the said presbytery and als quhatsumevir thingis salbe trettit in the said assemblee that may tend to the glorie of

God and weill of his haill kirk plantit of his mercie within this realme.

At Striviling the iij day of July, 1582

Presentes: Mr Andro Yung, Mr Petir Blakburne, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Patrik Gillaspie, Patrik Layng, Alexander Fargy and Robert Mentayth, ministeris; Michael Lermonthe, minister; Mr Alexander Iule, Mr Johnne Broun, Umphra Cunynghame, William Norwall.

Mr Alexander Chisholme adjonit: The quhilk day compeirit Mr Alexander Chisholme, minister at Muthull, and willinglie adjonit him self to this presbytery ay and quhill ane presbytery war erectit in Strathern quhome the brethrein acceptit.

Robert Ramsay, notar: The samin day ane summondis beand productit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upon Robert Ramsay, notar, Stein Aikman and Gilbert Crysteson, chairgeing thame to compeir befor the brethrein the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for sic caussis as eftir follwis, compeirit the said Robert Ramsay personallie quha, being accusit for confering and talkein with Mr Robert Montgumrie being lauchfullie excommunicat be the kirk and lauchfull intimatioun thair of made to the parrochinnaris of the brugh of Striviling in the pulpet thair of, ansorit that he saw nocht the said Mr Robert quhill he tuke him be the hand and than only cravit fra him sum silvir that he was awand to him, nocht knawand the said excommunicatioun becaus he was at Dunune the tyme of the intimatioun of the said excommunicatioun of the said kirk. Farder, being inquiryt gif he drank with the said Mr Robert, the said Robert denyit the samin *simpliciter*. The brethir admonesis the said Robert Ramsay nocht to entir in the said Mr Robert Montgumreis cumpany nor in confirrence with him at na tyme fra this furthe salang as he was undir the said sentence of excommunicatioun, nathir yit crave ony silver fra him excep he obtain lycence fra sum of the brethrein of befor undir the paine of the censuris of the kirk.

Stein Aikman: Compeirit Stein Aikman personallie, and being accusit for ressaving of Mr Robert Montgumrie, being excommunicat, in his hous and interteneing of him thairin, ansorit that he navir ressavit him in his hous nor yit spak with him thairin sen he

was excommunicat. The brethir thairfore admonesis him fra this furth salang as the said Mr Robert is undir the said sentence of excommunicatioun nocht to eat, drink, confer, nor talk with him etc., undir the paine of the censuris of the kirk.

Gilbert Crysteson, satisfeit: Compeirit Gilbert Crysteson *alias* Thome and being accusit for drinking with Mr Robert Montgumrie, being lauchfullie excommunicat and intimat as said is, and talking with him and leding of his hors fra the toun end of Striviling to the parkyet, the said Gilbert confessit the haill premisis and thairfor was ordeinit be the brethrein to mak publict repentence at the publict plaice in the parroche kirk of Striviling on Sondag the xv day of July nixt.

At Striviling the x day of July, 1582

Presentes: Mr Andro Yung, Robert Mentayth, Alexander Fargy, Michael Lermonte, Mr Alexander Chisholme, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iule and Mr Johnne Broun.

James Dalmahoy: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauffullie execute and indorsit upone James Dalmahoy, minister, chairgeing him to compeir the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk and to sic thingis as salbe layit unto his chairge, compeirit the said James personallie and being desyrit be the moderatour gif he wald continew in the functioun and offeice of the ministrie to the day of his dayth, ansorit that he wald co[nt]inew in the samin and promesit solempnitlie be his gret aithe to go forward in the samin, as said is. The said James beand accusit gif he tuke mony for solemnizatioun of ane mariage in Tullibody on Sondag last, ansorit that he ressavit nane bot ane fourtie penny peice for making of thair contract of mariage. The said James beand accusit for compleiting mariage betuix Johnne Cousland and Hellein Cunynghame in the kirk of Cambuskynnethe, thay beand fornicaturis nocht makand thair repentence of befor in S. Ninianis kirk in the parrochin quhair of the said fornicatioun was committit, ansorit that he confessit the mariage of the saidis personis in the said kirk of Cambuskynnethe befor vj houris in the morning bot allegit that thai hade made thair repentence of befor, quhilk the brethir ordeinit him to preve sufficientlie befor thame the xvij day of July instant. The brethir

continewis farther accusatioun of the said James and thair avysment heirwith to the nixt sessioun, he beand warnit thairto *apud acta* undir the paine of disobedience.

At Striviling the xvij day of July, 1582

Presentes: Mr Andro Yung, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Patrik Gillaspie, Alexander Fargy, Patrik Layng, Michael Lermonthe, Robert Mentayth, ministers; Mr James Pont, Mr Johnne Broun, Mr Alexander Iule, Mr William Stirling, yunger, Duncane Narne and Robert Alexander.

James Dalmahoy: The quhilk day James Dalmahoy being oft tymis callit and nocht compeirit as he was lauchfullie summond at the last act bot Alexander Fargy in his name compeirit and declairit ane excuse of his absence, continewis his mater quhill the said excuse be tryit and ordanis him to be summond of new undir the paine of disobedience.

Robert Wilson: The samin day ane summond beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Robert Wilsone, tailyour, Alexander Yung, baxter, Andro Squyer and Margaret Bavarage, spous to James Castellaw, chairgeing thame to compeir befor the brethrein the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for the causis eftir follwing and specefeit in the said summondis, compeirit personallie the said Robert Wilsone and being accusit for ressaving of Mr Robert Montgumrie in his hous, being excommunicat and lauchfull intimatioun thairof made in his parroche kirk, and interteneing at denner thairin, ansorit the said Robert and denyit the samin *simpliciter*. Farder being accusit for conveying of the said Mr Robert down the gait, confessit the samin bot allegit that he past with him only to crave sum silver he was awand him. The brethir admonesis the said Robert that he fra this furth talk nocht, keip nocht companie in etting, drinking nor ony utherwayis with the said Mr Robert salang as he remainis excommunicat undir the paine of the censures of the kirk and continewis thair avysment with the said accusationis till thai gait farther tryell thairof.

Alexander Yung: Compeirit Alexander Yung, baxter, and being accusit for drinking and talking with Mr Robert Montgumrie, being excommunicat, lauchfull intimatioun thairof beand made as

said is, the said Alexander denyit that he drank with him bot confessit that he and Duncane Robertsonsone was drinkand ane chopein of wyne in Michael Gairdneris tavern at the quhilk tyme the said Mr Robert come in upone thame and that the said Alexander spak na thing to him bot reprovit him for his contemp of the kirk and that he at his awin tuke up aff the burde thair peice with wyne and drank of it. The brethir admonesit the said Alexander as thai did the said Robert Wilson of befor.

Andro Squyer, Margaret Bavarage: The same day the saidis Andro Squyar and Margaret Bavarage being oft tymis callit as thai quha war lauchfullie summond according to the summondis and executioun productit this day on thame compeirit nocht. Thairfor the brethir ordanis thame to be summond of new for the causis conteinit in the said summondis productit on thame to compeir undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

Johnne Drummond, Jonet Quhyt: The quhilk day ane summondis beand productit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Johnne Drummond, *alias* Denmark, Jonet Quhyt, spous to James France, and the said James for his entires, chairgeing the said Johnne and Jonet to have compeirit the said day befor the brethir to heir and se thame selfis decernit to have committit adultrie togethir and thairfor to undirly and obey the censuris of the kirk thairfoir undir the paine of disobedience. Quhilk personis being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. Nochttheles the brethir for dyvers ressonis proponit to thame be thair minister, Mr Alexander Chisholme, tuiching certane circumstancis, quhilk was neidfull to be tryit befor the said adultrie could be knawin to be of trewth, quhilk could nocht be esallie done heir inrespect of the far distance of the plaice quhair the saidis personis dwellis, viz., the parrochun of Muthill fra the sessioun plaice of this presbytery, remittit the tryell thairof to the particular elderschip of Muthill, and quhat thai fand thairby to report againe to the brethrein befor thai pronounce sentence thairintill.

At Striviling the xxiiij day of July, 1582

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, Mr William Stirling, elder, Mr Williame Stirling, yunger, Alexander Fargy, Michael Lermonte, ministeris; Mr James Pont, Mr Alexander Iule, William Stirling.

James Dalmahoy: The quhilk day ane summondis beand product lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone James Dalmahoy chairgeing him to have compeirit the said day to the effect conteinit in the said summondis, the said James being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. Thairfor ordanis him to be summond of new to the effect foirsaid undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

The quhilk day the summondis beand product lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Andro Squyer chairgeing him to have compeirit this day to answer at the instance of the kirk for interteneing of Mr Robert Montgumrie being excommunicat, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the summondis raisit thairupone undir the paine of excommunicatioun, quhilk Andro being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, the brethrein for gude and rassonabill causis moving thame continewis proces this day againis the said Andro and ordanis him to be summond of new againe in the same form and effect as of befor.

At Striviling the last day of July, 1582

Presentes: Mr Andro Yung, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr William Stirling, elder, Robert Mentayth, Alexander Fargy, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Michael Lermonthe, ministers; Mr William Stirling, yunger, Mr Johnne Broun, Mr Alexander Iule, Umphra Cunynghame, commissar of Striviling, and Robert Alexander.

James Dalmahoy: The quhilk day ane summondis beand product lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone James Dalmahoy, minister, chairgeing him to compeir this day to answer at the instance of to sic accusatiounis as was to lay unto his chairge, compeirit the said James personallie and being accusit be the moderatour in quhat kirk [he mareit, *deleted*] Johnne Cousland and Hellein Cunyngham made thair repentence befor thair mariage for fornicatioun committit be thame, the said James confessit that thai made it befor him in the kirk of Cambuskynnethe the tyme of thair mariage viz., at vj houris in the morning. The brethrein findis the said James to have made gret fault, first, in mareing the saidis personis at vj houris in the morning, secundlie, in mareing of thame quhill the said personis hade made thair repentence in Sanct Ninianis kirk in the quhilk parrochin thair had committit the said fornicatioun quhilk was cleirly knawin to the brethir. Secundlie, the said James being accusit

for selling of the sacrament of baptisme to sindrie personis and taking mony thairfor, the said James denyit the taking of silvir for the sacrament, bot that quhilk he tuke, he tuke it for his travelling fra his hous to the kirk quhair he ministrat the samin. Thridlie, the said James being accusit for baptezein of ane bairne in Tillebody, gottin in adultrie be Marione Bennet in Culros by hir husband without ony satisfacioun made to the kirk thairfor and without testimoniall of the minister of Culros thairupone, quhilk the said James confessit. Ferdlie, being accusit for baptezein of ane bairne gottin in adultrie and incest be Thomas Moderall with his brothur dochtir by his wyf within the parrochin of Sanct Niniane without ony repentence or satisfacioun of the kirk thairfoir, the said James confessit the samin, bot allegit command of Patrik Gillaspie, minister at S. Ninianis gevin to him to that effect, quhilk the said James could nocht preve nathir be word or wrett, and thairfor was jugit be the brethrein to be ane fault. Fyftlie, the said James being accusit for abusing of the sacrament of baptisme in ministring the samin to ane bairne off Alexander Schorttis in Blakgrange within his awin barne, the said James confessit the samin bot allegit the occasioun thairof was becaus of the foull wathir that was that day, thrw the quhilk nane mycht travell to the kirk, nochtwithstanding of the quhilk allegence the brethir findis it ane fault inrespect of his awin confessioun.

Depositioun of James Dalmahoy: The brethrein having diligentlie considerit the sindrie and dyvers accusationis layit againis the said James Dalmahoy sindrie dyettis, as the proces beris and his ansuris made thairto being ryplie avysit thairwith, all in ane voice thocht the said James Dalmahoy worthie to be deposit and deposis him frome all functioun in the kirk of God and exerceis of ony part of the ministrie thairof at all tymis fra this furth, quhilk depositioun is presentlie intimat to the said James personallie present.

Andro Squyar: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Andro Squyar chargeing him to have compeirit the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for interteneing of Mr Robert Montgumrie, being excommunicat, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the summondis raisit thairupone undir the paine of excommunicatioun, quhilk Andro being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, thairfor ordanis the said Andro to be summond of new to heir and se him self decernit to be excommunicat for

his contemp and disobedience with certificatioun and he obey nocht in satisfeing of the kirk the brethrein will proceed and decern the sentence of excommunicatioun to be pronouncit againis him.

At Striviling the vij day of August, 1582

Presentes: Mr Andro Yung, Patrik Gillaspy, Mr Andro Hay, Johnne Duncanson, Alexander Fargy, Michael Lermonthe, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Mr Adame Merschell, ministeris; Mr James Pont, Mr Alexander Iule, William Stirling, Alexander Forester of Garden, Umphra Cunynghame and Robert Alexander.

Andro Squyar: The quhilk day ane summondis beand product lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Andro Squyer chargeing him to compeir the said day to heir and se him self decernit to be excommunicat for his former contemp and disobedience, compeirit the said Andro personallie quha being accusit for bering of Mr Robert Montgumrie familiar cumpanie, being excommunicat, and dew intimatioun made thairfor and for talking with him, the said Andro confessit that he was his tennent and, at his command, he led down his hors affoir him to the toun end and denyit that he bure the said Mr Robert ony farder cumpany nather yit drank nor eat with him sen he was excommunicat. Farder being accusit quhy he haid sa lang disobeyit the summondis of the kirk and lauchfull chairgis thairfor, to witt, this moneth bypast being four sindrie tymis summond, nather yit send na lauchfull excuse of his absence at na tyme, the said Andro could gif na gude rassone thairfor. Quhairfor the bretherein considdering his gret disobedience swa oft without ony lauchfull excuse ordeinit him to mak publict repentence in the kirk of Striviling at the publict plaice thairfor on the nixt Thurisday that thair sould happin ane sermond to be made in the said kirk for his said disobedience as he sould be warnit thairto be the officer.

Jane Stewart, adultrix: The quhilk day ane summondis beand product lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Jane Stewart in Lochburne, allegit adultrix with James McKie, chargeing hir to compeir the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for the samin adultrie and to heir and se hir self decernit to satisfie the discipline of the kirk thairfor, compeirit the said Jane personallie and confessit that it is twa yeiris past sen scho haid carnall dell with the

said James McKie, and als confessit that of hir conscience sche could nocht deny bot sche haid carnall dell with the said James befor his wyffe was ded and thairfor the brethrein decernis hir to have committit adultrie with the said James and ordanis and commandis hir to seperat hir self with all diligence fra the said James and nocht to cum in his cumpany againe undir the paine of excommunicatioun, and ordanis Alexander Fargy, hir minister, to warne the said Jane to the nixt synnodall to ressave hir injunctiounis.

James McKie: The quhilk day the second summondis product upone James McKie, adulterar with Jane Stewart, deulie execute and indorsit chairgeing him to compeir the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for the said adultrie and to heir and se him self decernit to obey and satisfie the discipline of the kirk thairfor undir the paine of excommunicatioun. Quhilk James being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, thairfor ordanis him to be summond to heir and se him self decernit to be excommunicat for his contemp and disobedience with certificatioun and he failze the brethir will proceed to the pronouncing of the said decret againis him.

James Galbrayth, adulterar, intimat to Mr Andro Hay: The quhilk day the act made on the xxvj day of September last tuiching the adultrie committit be James Galbrayth of Culcruch with Margaret Leiche was intimat to Mr Andro Hay beand personally present and ane copy thairof delyverit to him.

At Strivling the xiiij day of August, 1582

Presentes: Mr Andro Yung, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr William Stirling, elder, Alexander Fargy, Robert Mentayth, Patrik Layng, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iule, William Stirling.

James McKie decernit to be excommunicat: The quhilk day ane summondis beand product lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone James McKie, adulterar with Jane Stewart, chairgeing him to have compeirit the said day to have hard and sein him self decernit to be excommunicat for his contemp and disobedience to the voice of the kirk, quhilk James being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht and the brethrein having diligentlie wyit and deiplye considerit his gret obstinacie and manifest contemp of the lauchfull chairgis of the kirk besyd the odious cryme of adultrie committit be him ordanis and

decernis the said James to be excommunicat and cuttit of fra the societie of Christis kirk and to be delyverit into the handis of the devill for the destructioun of his flesche that his saull may be saif in the day of the Lord Jesus.

At Striviling the xxj day of August, 1582

Presentes: Mr Andro Yung, Johnne Duncanson, Patrik Gillaspie, Robert Mentayth, Alexander Fargy, Patrik Layng, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iule, William Stirling and Duncane Narne.

Mr Duncan Nevein: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execut and indorsit upone Mr Duncane Nevein chairgeing him to have compeirit the said day to heir and se Mr Johnne Craigis interpretatioun of the act of the generall assemblie made anentis the adjoning of the brethrein of Dunblane to this presbytery declarit and the brethreinis sentence and decreit pronuncit in the said matter, quhilk Mr Duncan being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht personallie, bot Mr Andro Yung declairit to the brethrein in name of the said Mr Duncan ane excuis for his absence and thairfor the brethrein continewit the said mater quhill thai be farder avysit.

Andro Squyer: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execut and indorsit upone Andro Squyar chairgeing him to have compeirit the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk and to underly the censuris thairof for his disobedience to the lauchfull ordinancis of the samin, quhilk Andro beand oft tymis callit compeirit [nocht, *deleted*] personallie quha being accusit for his disobedience, it wes fund be the brethrein that the said Andro was na thing mendit bot continewit still obstinat and disobedient as of befor, thairfor ordeinit to delait to the civill magistrattis, viz., to the provest and bailleis of Striviling the said Androis contemp and disobedience to the kirk, desyring thame to adjone thair auctoritie to the auctoritie of the kirk in punesing of the said Andro quhill he be movit with repentence and offir him self to the kirk and obey the disceplein thairof.

Thomas Johneson, adulterar: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Thomas Johnneson in S. Ninianis parrochin, adulterar with Jonet Murray, chairgeing him to compeir befor us the said day to declair quhy he hes nocht

fulfillit his injunctionis gevin to him for the said adultrie be the last provinciall assemblie of this province, compeirit the said Thomas and confessis he hes nocht obeyit the injunctiones ressavit be him fra the said assemblie. The brethir ordanis him to entir to the plaice of repentence the nixt Sonday in the said kirk of S. Niniane and thair mak publict repentence and swa furth to continew ilk Sonday quhill the xxj day of Fabruar nixt undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

Margaret Bruce: The quhilk day ane summondis lauchfullie execute and indorsit being producit upone Margaret Bruce dwelland within the parrochin of Clakmannan chargeing hir to have compeirit the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk and to heir and se hir self decernit to have committit adultrie with Robert Bruce of Clakmannan and thairfor to underly the censuris of the kirk, quhilk Margaret, being oft tymis callit, compeirit nocht, thairfor the brethrein ordanis hir to be summond of new undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

Johnne Cuthbert for nonadherence: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Johnne Cuthbert in Brumrig chargeing him to compeir the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk quhy he adheiris nocht to Issobell Ellesone, his spous, and interteneis hir as Godis law prescryvis, and to heir and se him self decernit be our decretit to adheir and interteine his said spous, as said is, undir the paine of disobedience, quhilk Johnne being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht thairfor ordanis him to be summond of new to compeir to the effect foirsaid undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

James McKie: The quhilk day compeirit James McKie personallie eftir the first admonitioun gevin be Alexander Fargy, his minister, according to the ordur befor the pronouncing of the sentence of excommunicatioun againis him according to our decretit gevin thairanent and offerit him self to obey quhat the brethir wald command him. The brethrein being ryplie avysit with the odious cryme of adultrie committit be him with Jane Stewart decernis and ordanis him with all diligence to separat him self fra the said Jane Stewart *simpliciter* and nocht to cum in hir cumpanie agayne undir the paine of excommunicatioun, and als commandis him to pas to the nixt provinciall assemblie of Edinburgh, Dalkayth, Striveling

and Linlythquow to be haldin in Edinburgh on sic day as he salbe warnit to, be his said minister undir the said paine of excommunicatioun to ressave his injunctionis for the said adultrie.

At Striviling the xxviiij day of August, 1582

[*Presentes*:] Patrik Gillaspie, Alexander Fargy, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iule, Duncane Narne and Umphra Cunynghame.

Adulteraris in Kippen: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Duncane Carrik in Kippen and Issobell Finlasone, allegit adulteraris, chairgeing thame to have compeirit the said day to answer to the cryme of adultrie allegit committit be thame and to heir and se thame selfis decernit to obey and satisfie the disceplein of the kirk thairfor, undir the paine of disobedience, quhilk personis being oft tymis callit comperit nocht, thairfor the brethir ordanis the saidis personis to be summond of new to the effect fairsaid undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

Johnne Cuthbert: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Johnne Cuthbert in Brumrig within the parrochin of Sanct Niniane, chairgeing him to have compeirit befor us the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk quhy he adheris nocht to Issobell Ellesone, his spous, and interteneis hir as Godis law prescryvis, and to heir and se him self decernit to do the samin undir the paine of excommunicatioun, quhilk Johnne being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, thairfor the brethir ordanis the said Johnne to be summond of new to heir and se him self decernit to be excommunicat for his contemp and disobedience with certificatioun and he obey nocht in satisfeing of the kirk, the brethrein will proceid and decern as said is.

At Striviling the iiij day of September, 1582

Presentes: Mr Andro Young, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Patrik Gillaspie, Robert Mentayth, Michael Lermonthe, Patrik Layng, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iule, Mr James Pont, Mr Robert Rollok, Robert Alexander, Mr Richard Wricht, Mr Johnne Stewart, provest, and Malcolme Wallace, baillie.

Adulteraris in Tullicultrie excommunicat: The quhilk day ane sum-

mondis beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone William Watt in Tullicultry and Jonet Dugy, adulteraris and incesteus personis, chairgeing thame to have compeirit this day to heir and se thame selffis and ilk ane of thame decernit to be excommunicat for thair contemp and disobedience to the voice of the kirk, quhilkis personis being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht and the brethrein having diligentlie wyit and deiplic considerit thair grit obstinacie and manifest contemp of the lauchfull chairgis of the kirk besyd the odius cryme of adultrie and incest committit be thame ordanis and decernis the saidis personis to be excommunicat and cuttit of fra the societie of Chrystis kirk and to be delyverit into the handis of the devill for the destructioun of thair flesh that thair saullis may be saif in the day of the Lord Jesus.

At Striviling the xj day of September, 1582

Presentes: Mr Andro Young, Patrik Gillaspie, Alexander Fargy, Robert Mentayth, Michael Lermonthe, ministeris; Mr James Pont, Mr Alexander Iule, Mr Robert Rollok and Umphra Cunynghame, commissar of Striviling.

Mr Duncan Nevein: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Mr Duncane Nevein, scholmaistir in Dunblane, chairgeing him to have compeirit this day to have hard and sein Mr Johnne Craigis interpretatioun of the act of the generall assemblie made anentis the adjoing of the brethrein of Dunblane to this presbytery declairit, and the brethreinis sentence and decreit pronuncit in the said mater, quhilk Mr Duncan being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht thairfor the brethrein ordanis him to be summond of new to the effect fairsaid undir the paine of excommunication.

Disobedientis in Dunblane: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone James Duthy in Dunblane, cautioner and souertie for James Walkar and Issobell Porteus, Johnne Tailyour, millar in Kinbuk, Marione Michell, servand to Johnne Scot in Dunblane, and Marione Forfer thair, chargeing thame to have compeirit befor us the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for disobedience to the lauchfull chairgis of the sessioun of thair awin parroche kirk of Dunblane and to underly

the censuris of the kirk thairfor undir the paine of disobedience, quhilk personis being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, thairfor the brethrein ordanis thame to be summond of new undir the paine off excommunicatioun.

Johnne Cuthbert: The quhilk day ane summondis beand productit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Johnne Cuthbert chairgeing him to have compeirit the said day to have hard and sein him self decernit to to [*sic*] have bein excommunicat for his contemp and disobedience, compeirit the said Johnne Cuthbert personallie and being accusit quhy he contempnit and disobeyit the lauchfull summondis of the presbytery, being swa aft summond, could gif na gude rassone thairfor, and thairfor was ordeinit be the brethir to mak publict repentence the nixt [Sunday] in his parroche kirk of Sanct Niniane in the publict plaice thairfor undir the paine of disobedience, and farder being accusit quhy he adheris nocht to Issobell Ellesone his [spouse] and intertencis hir in hous with him as Goddis law prescryvis, the said Johnne could allege na ressonablle caus quhy he sould nocht do the samin and thairfor was decernit and ordeinit be the brethir to ressave the said Issobell, his spous, agane in hous with him and intertenis hir as Godis law prescryvis and nocht to put hir fra him agane undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

Andro Squyer, satisfet: The quhilk day the bailleis of the brugh of Striviling reportit to the brethir that thai for contemp and disobedience of Andro Squyer to the brethreinis ordinance hade causit thair officeris lay handis on him quha hade promesit to thame to obey the brethrein quhom thay presentit personallie to satisfie for his said contemp. The brethrein having diligentlie wyit his lang disobedience and contemp of his refuse to satisfie the ordinance of the kirk made thairanent decernit and ordeinit him to mak publict repentence in the kirk of Striviling the nixt Sunday that thair sould happin ane preiching to be thair undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

At Striviling the xvijj day of September, 1582

Presentes: Mr Andro Yung, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Patrik Gillaspie, Thomas Swintoun, Robert Mentayth, Michael Lermonthe, ministeris; Henrie Colvill, minister at Forfar, Mr Robert

Rollok, Mr Alexander Iule and Mr James Pont, commissar of Dunblane.

Mr Duncane Nevein adjonit: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Mr Duncane Nevein, chairgeing him to have compeirit befor the brethir the sed day to have hard and sein Mr Johnne Craigis interpretatioun of the act of the generall assemblie made anenttis the adjoning of the brethrein of Dunblane to this presbytery declairit, and the brethreinis sentence and decreit pronuncit thairintill, compeirit the said Mr Duncan personallie. The brethrein beand ryplie avysit with the said act and interpretatioun of the said Mr Johnne Craig togethir with the said Mr Duncanis haill allegiance made in the contrar decernis and ordanis the said Mr Duncane to adjone him self to the said presbytery and exerceis thairin undir the paine off disobedience becaus he is a teicher of the youthe, reder at the kirk of Dunblane, and hes made the exerceis of befor in Dunblane, nochttheles inrespect of the said Mr Duncanis small stepend and utheris motevis moving the brethrein, thay grant *ex gratia* to the said Mr Duncane that he sall nocht be astrictit to conveyin ilk day of exerceis with the brethrein bot only on the dayis that it sall fall him to mak the exerceis and to ad in the secund plaice on the quhilkis he sall teiche according to the ordur and to conveyin with the brethir ilk day of exerceis that it sall happin him to be in Striviling.

Robert Fogo: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Robert Fogo in Doun chairgeing him to have compeirit the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for sic thingis as salbe layit unto his chairge undir the paine of disobedience, quhilk Robert being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht thairfor the brethrein ordanis the said Robert to [be] summond of new undir the paine of excommunicatioun to compeir to the effect foirsaid.

Disobedientis in Dunblane: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Johnne Tailyour in Kinbuk and Marione Forfar in Dunblane chargeing thame to have compeirit the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for disobedience to the lauchfull chairgis of the sessioun of thair awin parroche kirk of Dunblane and to undirly the censuris of the kirk thairfor, undir the paine of excommunicatioun, quhilk personis

being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, thairfor the brethrein ordanis the saidis personis to be summond to heir and se thame selffis decernit to be excommunicat for thair contemp and disobedience with certificatioun and thai failze we will proceid and decern, as said is, according to the Word of God and discipline of the kirk havand the warrand thair of thairin.

At Striviling the xxv day of September, 1582

Presentes: Mr Andro Yung, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Robert Mentayth, Patrik Gillaspie, Patrik Layng, Mr William Stirling, elder, Michaell Lermonthe, Thomas Swintoun, Mr Adame Merschell, Alexander Fargy, ministeris; Mr James Pont, Mr Alexander Iule, William Stirling, Mr Robert Rollok.

Marione Forfar decernit to be excommunicat: The quhilk day ane summond is beand productit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Marione Forfar in Dunblane chairgeing hir to have compeirit befor the brethrein the said day to have hard and sein hir self decernit to be excommunicat for hir contemp and disobedience to the voice of the kirk as the said summond is at mair lynthe beris, quhilk Marione being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht and the brethrein having diligentlie wyit and deiplic considderit hir gret obstinacie and manifest contemp of the lauchfull chairgis of the kirk alsweill hir awin kirk as the voice of the elderschip, ordanis and decernis the said Marione to be excommunicatt and cuttit of fra the societie of Chrystis kirk and to be delyverit in the handis of the devill for the destructioun of hir flesche that hir saull may be saif in the day of the Lord Jesus.

At Striviling the penult day of October, 1582

Presentes: Mr Andro Yung, Patrik Gillaspie, Robert Mentaythe, Alexander Fargy, ministeris; Mr James Pont, Mr Alexander Iule, Robert Alexander, Umphra Cunynghame, Sir James Stirling of Keir, knycht, provest; James Anderson and Mr Williame Edmestoun, ministeris.

Commissionar to Edinbrugh: The quhilk day the brethrein present with universall consent nominat and ordeinit Patrik Gillaspie

commissionar for this presbytery to pas to Edinburgh thair to travell with the lordis modefearis of stependis for the weill of the hail brethrenis stipendis and to crave augmentatioun to the brethrein that hes neid.

The brethrein sustein the commissionaris expensis: The same day the brethering calling to remembrance and considderand the gret and lairge expensis sustenit be sum of the brethrein nominat commissionaris to travell for the hail in tymis past besyd thair awin travellis and wiling that the samin salbe helpit in tymis cuming all with ane voice consenttis and aggreis that the brethrein havand stependis be commune contributioun ilk ane according to his stepend to be valurit sall sustein and pay the said commissionaris expensis to be sustenit be him in his said jurnay to Edinbrugh.

Exerceis beginnis at x houris: The brethrein inrespect of the schortnes of the day presentlie ordanis the exerceis to begin at x houris in tymis cuming.

At Striviling the xiiij day of November, 1582

Presentes: Mr Andro Yung, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr William Stirling, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Michael Lermonthe, Alexander Fargy, Robert Mentayth, ministeris; Mr Alexander Chisholme [*recte*, Iule], Umphra Cunynghame and William Norwall.

[No minutes.]

At Striviling the xx day of November, 1582

Presentes: Mr Andro Yung, Patrik Gillaspie, Alexander Fargy, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Robert Mentayth ministeris; Mr Alexander Iule, Williame Stirling, Umphra Cunynghame, Maisteris Richard Wricht and Johnne Broun.

James Lecky, Merjorie Erskine: The quhilk day ane summondis product lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone James Lecky and Merjory Erskine dwelland in Sanct Ninianis parrochin, allegit adulteraris, chairgeing thame to have comepeirit the said day to have hard and sein thame selffis decernit to have committit adultrie and to undirly and obey the ordinance of the kirk thairfoir undir the paine of excommunicatioun, comepeirit the said James Lecky personally

and being accusit be the moderator that [gif, *deleted*] he haid committit adultrie with Merjorie Erskine, having carnall copulatioun with hir, becaus it is [was, *deleted*] allegit that he was mareit with Jonet Leckie, relict of umquhill William Michell in Gait syd quha is yit alyve, the said James denyit that he committit ony adultrie with the said Merjorie becaus, as he allegit, he was nevir mareit with the said Jonet Leckie nor na uthir woman, bot confessis fornicatioun with the said Jonet Leckie and Merjorie Erskine, for the quhilk he offeris to satisfie the kirk as he salbe commandit. The brethrein being avysit with the said James allegence contenuis thair sentence thairin quhill the xxvij day of November instant that thai may accuse the said Jonet Leckie gif the said mariage was in veritie or nocht, the said James being warnit thairto *apud acta*. The said Merjorie Erskine being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. Thairfor the brethir ordanis hir to be summond to heir and se hir self decernit to be excommunicat for hir contemp and disobedience withe certificatioun and sche failze we will proceid and decern, as said is, according to the Word of God and disceplein of the kirk havand the warrand thairof thairin.

Duncane Carrik: The quhilk day ane summond is beand productit lauchfullie execut and indorsit upone Duncane Carrik in Kippen chairgeing him to compeir befor us the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk to the cryme of adultrie allegit committit be him with Issobell Finlason and to heir and se him self decernit to obey and satisfie the disceplein of the kirk thairfor, undir the paine of excommunicatioun, quhilk Duncane being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, thairfor the brethir ordanis to summond the said Duncane to heir and se him self decernit to be excommunicat for his contemp and disobedience with certificatioun and he failze we will proceid and decern, assaid is, according to the Word of God and disceplein of the kirk havand the warrand thairof thairin.

James McKie, Jane Stewart: The quhilk day it was schawin and complainit to the brethir be Alexander Fargy, minister at Logy, that he, according to our ordinance, lauchfullie warnit James McKie and Jane Stewart personallie to compeir befor the last synnodall assemblee haldin at Edinburgh the [blank] day of October last bypast, thair to have ressavit thair injunctionis for adultrie committit be thame undir the paine of excommunicatioun, quhilk

personis hathe baithe contempuandlie disobeyit the said chairge and nocht to thair to the effect and lykwys declairit that the saidis personis haid nocht separat thame selffis fra uthir according to the ordinance and command gevin to thame be the brethir, bot lykwys disobeyit the samin and remanit still and now presentlie is remanand in hous togethir. The brethir ordanis to summond bayth the saidis personis to heir and se thame selffis decernit to be excommunicat for thair contemp and disobedience with certificatioun and thai failze we will proceid and decern, as said is, according to the Word of God and disceplein of the kirk havand the warand thair of thairin.

At Striviling the xxvij day of November, 1582

Presentes: Mr Andro Yung, Patrik Gillaspie, Alexander Fargy, Mr William Stirling and Michael Lermonte, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iule, Mr James Pont, William Stirling, Umphra Cunynghame and Robert Alexander.

The text of the exerceis: The brethrein hes thocht gude and ordeinit that the epistill of Paull wrettin to the Ephesianis be teichit in the exerceis immediatlie eftir the epistill wrettin to the Gallatianis be endit.

James McKie and Jane Stewart decernit to be excommunicatt: The quhilk day ane summondis beand productit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone James McKie and Jane Stewart, parrochinnaris in Logy, chairgeing thame to have compeirit befor the brethrein the said day to have hard and sein thame selffis decernit to be excommunicat for thair contemp and disobedience as the said summondis at mair lynthe beris, quhilkis personis being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht and the brethrein having diligentlie wyit and deiplye considerit thair gret obstinacie and manifest contemp of the lauchfull chairgis of the kirk besyd the odius cryme of adultrie committit be thame, ordanis and decernis the saidis James and Jane to be excommunicat and cuttit off fra the societie of Chrystis kirk and to be delyverit into the handis of the devill for the destructioun of thair flesche that thair saullis may be saif in the day of the Lord Jesus.

James Leckie, Jonet Leckie: In the terme assignit be the brethrein to pronounce sentence in the allegit cryme of adultrie layit to the chairge

of James Lecky, brothur to Walter Lecky of that Ilk, allegit committit be him with Merjorie Erskine inrespect he is allegit to have bein mareit on Jonet Lecky, relict of umquhill William Michell in Gaitsyd, the said James and Jonet Lecky comperand personally, the said Jonet is accusit be the moderator gif scho was at ony tyme mareit with the said James, denyit the samin *simpliciter*, bot confessit that upone xiiij yeir syne or thairby on ane fasternisevin at nycht, eftir supper in the auld lady Leckes hous in presens of the said laird of Lecky and utheris thair freindis thair conveynit and in presens of William Stirling, reder att Kippen, the said James and scho promesit mutuallie to compleit mariage on Sunday immediatlie eftir the fest of peace nixt thaireftir and lykwys confest that scho bure ane bairne to the said James and swa hade carnall copulatioun with the said James and cohabitatioun with him eftir the said promiseis dyveris yeiris, for the quhilk carnall copulatioun with the said Jonet Lecky (as is confessit) the brethrein ordanis the said James and Jonet to mak publict repentence in the parroche kirk of the parrochin quhair the said offence was committit, viz., in the kirk of Kincardin on Sunday the ix day of December nixt befor Alexander Fargy, minister at Logy, appointit be the brethrein to that effect, and lykwys for fornicatioun committit be the said James with the said Merjorie (as the brethrein presentlie understandis), ordanis him to mak publict repentence in the parroche kirk of the parrochin quhair the said fornicatioun was committit, viz., in the kirk of Sanct Niniane befor the minister thair of on Sunday the secund day of December nixt and attour commandis and ordanis the said James to separet him self in societie fra the said Merjorie Erskine and frathynefurth to remane fra hir undir the paine of the censuris of the kirk.

At Striviling the iiij day of December, 1582

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Alexander Chisholme and Alexander Fargy, ministeris; Mr Duncane Nevein, Mr James Pont, Mr Alexander Iule, Umphra Cunynghame, commissar of Striviling, Robert Alexander, William Norwall, and Mr Johnne Stewart.

James Andirsonne plessit ane brothur in the presbytery: The quhilk day compeirit Malcolm Wallace, Duncane Leischman, bailleis of

Striviling and elderis in the kirk thair of, William Norwall and Robert Alexander, elderis in the presbytery, in name and behalf of the haill kirk of the said brugh, quha exponit and declairit to the brethrein that the parrochinnaris of Striviling haid lauchfullie electit and chosin James Andirson to be thair minister according to the powar gevin to thame be ane act of the generall assemblie of the dett at Edinburgh the xx day of October last bypast, and lykwys was publictlie plaicit minister to thame on Sondag the secund day of December instant be Johnne Duncansone, minister, as ane act thair of in the buikis of the particular elderschip of the kirk of Striviling at mair lynth beris, and thairfor desyrit the brethrein to accep and ressave him as thair minister to be ane brothur with thame in this presbytery according to the ordur tane be the generall kirk thairanent. Quhilk James Andirson compeirit personallie and accepit plaice and offeice in this presbytery and promesit solemnitlie be uphaulding of his hand faythfullie to execute his offeice in teiching of the Word, ministratioun of the sacramentis and executioun of disceplein according to the Word of God at the said kirk of Striviling as alswa in exercesing with the brethrein and concuring with thame be his avyse and jugement for tryell of sic thingis as salbe treattit in the presbytery unto the end of his lyf as it sall plais God to minister to him the giftis of his Holie Spirit.

Adulteraris in S. Ninianis parrochin: The quhilk day Patrik Gillaspie, minister at S. Ninianis kirk, complainit that albeit Johnne Waltir in Touchadame, adulterar with Jonet Clark, and Thomas Johneson, adulterar with Margaret Murray, dwelland within the said parrochin, was decernit and ordeinit be us to entir to the plaice of repentence within the said kirk on the nixt Sondagis thaireftir and swa to have continewit ilk Sondag according to the ordinance ressavit be thame fra the synnodall assemblie of this province and our said ordinancis made thairanent undir the paine of excommunicatioun, nochttheles the said Johnne and Thomas hes nocht obeyit our saidis ordinancis in making of thair repentence, as said is, bot hes contemnit the same, thairfor the brethrein ordanis the saidis personis to be summond to heir and se thame selffis decernit to have contravenit our saidis ordinancis and thairfor decervis to be execute and pronuncit againis thame the paine thairin contenit, viz., excommunicatioun with certificatioun and thay failze, we will proceid and

decern thame to have contravenit the samin according to the Word of God.

At Striviling the xj day of December, 1582

Presentes: Mr Andro Yung, Mr Andro Grahame, Patrik Gillaspie, James Andirson, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Alexander Fargy and Michael Lermonthe, ministeris; Mr James Pont, Mr Alexander Iule and Umphra Cunynghame, commissar of Striviling, elderis.

Moderatour electit: The quhilk day James Andirson, minister at Striviling, be voit of the brethrein was chosin moderator to the nixt provincially assemblie.

The brethrein that hes bein oft absent: The brethrein, undirstandand the lang and frequent absence of the brethrein eftir follwing fra the exerceis and elderschip, to wit, Robert Mentayth, Mr Adame Merschell, Patrik Layng, William Stirling and William Scott, ordanis thame to be summond to heir and se thame selffis decernit to pay the penalteis conteinit in our actis made thairanent and to sustein and underly the censuris conteinit in the actis of the generall assemblie under the paine of disobedience.

James Andirsonis text: The brethrein thinkis gude and ordeinis James Andirson, minister at Striviling, to teiche in his kirk the harmony of the Evangelistis, his commentaris to be Calveinis harmony, and Gwalteir on Louk with sic uther godlie and lernit wretaris as wrettis thairupone. Compeirit Mr Andro Grahame, minister at Dunblane, and acceptit on him offeice and plaice in this presbytery be solem promeis in the presens of God, his hand haldin up faythfullie to execute his offeice in teiching of the Word of God, ministratioun of the sacramentis and executioun of discipline according to the same Word as alswa in exercesing with the brethrein and concuring with thame be his avys and jugement for tryell of sic thingis as salbe treattit in the presbytery unto the end of his lyf as it sall plais God to minister unto him the giftis of his Holie Spirit.

The act of the generall assemblie tuiching bishoppis intimat: The quhilk day ane act of the last generall assemblie was intimat to the brethrein gevand thame commissioun to accuse the bishoppis of Dunblane and Iyllis of certane offencis conteinit thairin as the samin at lynthe beris.

Mr Andro Grahame: Quhilk act beand red to the brethrein in presens of Mr Andro Grahame, the said Mr Andro was summond *apud acta* to compeir befor the brethrein the xxv day of December instant in the parroche kirk of Striviling befor none to answer to the accusatiounis conteinit in the said act and everie ane of thame as he salbe demandit undir the paine of disobedience and ordeinit the scribe to gif the copie of the said act to the said Mr Andro, to the quhilk ordinance the said Mr Andro aggreit and grantit his said wairning to be lauchfull.

Bischof off Iyllis: The brethrein ordanis that Johnne Campbell, bischof of the Iyllis, sasone as he may be apprehendit be summond to compeir befor thame to answer to the accusationis conteinit in the said act of the generall assemblie and everie ane of thame as he salbe demandit undir the paine of disobedience and that becaus he is nocht presentlie in thir boundis.

James Leckie: The quhilk day compeirit James Leckie, brothur germane to Waltir Leckie of that Ilk, and confessit that promise of mariage was made betuix him and Merjorie Erskine, and thairfor desyrit the brethrein to gif command to Patrik Gillaspie, thair minister, to proclame the said promise lauchfullie, as effeiris, in thair parroche kirk of Sanct Ninian to the effect that mariage may be solemnizat betwix thame according to the ordur. It was askit at the said James gif he satisfiet ane formar ordinance of the bretherin in making of repentence as he was commandit. He answerit that he hade satisfet the samin in all pointtis quhilk was varefeit be Patrik Gillaspie and Alexander Fargy, ministeris and ressavaris of the samin. The brethrein tuke to avys with thair answer to the said James desyr to the xvijj December instant, the said James wairnit thairto *apud acta*.

At Striviling the xvijj day of December, 1582

Presentes: James Andirson, Mr Andro Yung, Mr Andro Grahame, Alexander Fargy, Michael Lermontie and Mr Alexander Chisholme, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iule; Duncane Narne, elder; Mr Airthur Futhie and Mr Andro Knox, ministeris.

Mr Andro Grahame: The brethrein, understanding that on the next day of exerceis, viz., the xxv of this instant, is appointit to Mr Andro

Grahame to answer to the accusatiounis conteinit in the act of the generall assemblie that the brethrein may juge thairon, thinkis gude and ordeinis the said Mr Andro to mak the exerceis the said day to the effect the brethrein may juge on his doctrein alsweill as uthirwayis conforme to the said act.

Mr Arthur Futhie: Compeirit Mr Arthur Futhie, minister at Airthe, and acceptit on him offeice and plaice in this presbytery be solem promeis in the presens of God, his hand haldin up faythfullie to execute his offeice in teching of the Word of God, ministratioun of the sacramentis and executioun of disceplein according to the same Word unto the end of his lyf, as alsua in exercesing with the brethrein and concuring with thame be his avys and jugement for tryell of sic thingis as salbe trettit in the presbytery as it sall plais God to minister unto him the giftis of his Holie Spirit.

William Scott: The quhilk day William Scott, allegit to be admittit minister at the kirk of [blank], was desyrit gif he wald gif ane pruf of his doctrein to the brethrein quhairbe thai mycht knaw gif he could proffeit the flok quhomunto he was committit in teiching of the Word [of] God or nocht, answerit that glaidlie he wald gif thame ane prufe of his doctrein on sic text as thai wald appoint to him. The brethrein ordanis him to teiche privellie in the minister of Strivilingis chalmir on the xxix day of Januar nixt tocum, and that on the last part of the last chaptur of the evangelist Mathow.

Adulterar in Muthill: The quhilk day compeirit Andro McIlroy, parrochinnar in Muthill, and confessit him self mareit with Marione Gallway quha levis yit and that he hes gottin ane bairne by hir in adulterie with Agnes Sword, quhilk bairne was borne in November last, for the quhilk fault the brethrein ordanis the said Andro to pas to the nixt synnodall assemblie of this province to be haldin in Edinburgh the secund day of Aprill nixt, and in the mentyme ordanis and commandis the said Andro to separat him self fra the said Agnes Sword and remane fra hir societie and company under the paine of excommunicatioun.

Adulteraris in S. Ninianis parrochin: The quhilk day ane summondis producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Thomas Johneson, adulterar with Margaret Murray, and Johnne Waltir, adulterar with Jonet Clark, chairgeing thame to compeir the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk and to heir and se thame selffis decernit to

have contravenit the ordinanc of the brethrein, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the summondis producit thairupone, compeirit the said Thomas Johnesone and confessit his disobedience and contravening of the ordinance befor specefeit, and thairfor is ordeinit be the brethrein to entir to the plaice appointit for penitenttis within his parroche kirk of Sanct Niniane the nixt Sunday, and swa to continew ilk Sunday thaireftir to the nixt synnodall assemblie of this province, viz., the second day of Aprill nixt undir the paine of excommunicatioun with certificatioun and he failze we will direct summondis *simpliciter* for pronouncing of the sentence [of] excommunicatioun againis him. The said Johnne Waltir, being oft tymis callit, compeirit nocht. Thairfor the brethrein decernis him to have contravenit the said ordinance and thairfor decervis to be execute and pronuncit againis him the paine thairin conteinit, viz., the sentence of excommunicatioun, and ordanis him to be summond to heir and se him self decernit to be excommunicat for his contemp and disobedience, with certificatioun and he failze, we will proceid and decern him to be excommunicat, as said is, according to the Word of God and disceplein of the kirk, havand the warrand thairof thairin.

At Striviling the xxv day of December, 1582

Presentes: James Andirson, Mr Andro Yung, Mr Andro Grahame, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Mr William Stirling, Patrik Gillaspie and Michael Lermonte, ministeris; Mr Duncane Nevein, Mr James Pont, Mr Alexander Iule, Alexander Forester of Garden, Umphra Cunynghame, commissar of Striviling, Robert Alexander, William Norwall and Duncane Narne, elderis.

Mr Andro Grahame: The quhilk day Mr Andro Grahame made the exerceis according to the ordinance in the last sessioun on the ordinarie text of exerceis, quhilk begouthe in the first chaptur of the epistill wrettin to the Ephesianis at the 13 vers and red to the xv vers of the samin exclusive, and inquisitioun of his doctrein being tane was fund sound and proffitablie, and was admonesit to exerceis him self mair diligentlie in tyme cuming nor he did befor, quhilk he promesit to obey.

Mr Andro Grahame: In the terme assignit to Mr Andro Grahame to answer to the heddis conteinit in the act of the generall assemblie,

the said Mr Andro compeirand personallie and being accusit thairupone as eftir follwis particularlie, viz., for non preiching of the Word and administratioun of the sacramentis, negligence of doctrein and disceplein, hanting and frequenting the company of excommunicat personis and namelie the excommunicantis in Dunblane and Mr Robert Montgumrie, geving collatiounis of beneficis againis the actis of the generall assemblie, for geving sclandir ony wayis in lyf and conversatioun and finellie for wasting and delapidatioun of the patrimony of the kirk and setting of takis thair of againis the saidis actis of the generall assemblie, as in ane act of the last generall assemblie direct to the brethrein of this presbytery for tryell of the said Mr Andro and bischop of Iyllis at mair lynthe is conteinit of the det at Edinburgh the xij day of October, the yeir of God, etc., lxxxij yeiris. The said Mr Andro answerit as follwis. *In primis*, to the first, quhair he is accusit for non preiching of the Word and administratioun of the sacramentis and siclyk for negligence of doctrein and disceplein, ansorit that he hade nocht preichit the Word nor made ministratioun of the sacramentis nather exercesit disceplein in the kirk of Dunblane, as his propir kirk appointit to him to serve at, the speace of ane yeir bypast, excusand his absence and negligence in the premisis be ther twa occasionis, first for taking ordur with ane certane portioun of landis and leving quhilk he hade in the northe parttis that thairthrw heireftir he sould nocht be abstractit from his fairsaid cure in thir parttis. The uthir occasioun was the lang seiknes of his wyf in the northe partis quha thair departit this lyf. Secundlie, being accusit for hanting with excommunicat personis and speciallie the personis fairsaidis, he denyit the samin *simpliciter* and refarrit him to the testimony of the brethrein of Dunblane quha beand present testefeit him to be innocent of that hed of accusatioun. Thridlie, being accusit for geving of collationis of beneficis againis the actis of the generall assemblie, ansorit he nevir gaif ony collatioun of beneficis to na persone sen his admissioun to the fairsaid bischoprie, as the fairsaid bretherein in Dunblane present knew and being demandit thair of affermit the same. Ferdlie, being accusit of his lyf and conversatioun answerit that as he undirstude he hade gevin na occasioun of sclandir thairin and refarrit the testimony thair of to his brethrein fairsaid. The said Mr Andro beand removit and the brethrein of Dunblane in special beand requyrit on thair conscience

to testefie the trewth the thairintill answerit all in ane voice thai knew na thing in his lyf bot godlienes and honestie. Fyftlie, being accusit for wasting and delapidatioun of the patrimony of the kirk and setting of takis thair of againis the actis of the generall assemblie, the said Mr Andro desyrit to know quhat was dilapidatioun of the patrimony, to quhom it was ansorit that setting of fewis or takis of landis or teindis with diminutioun of the auld dewatty, setting of victuell for small pricis of silvir, geving of pentionis, namelie, to unqualefeit personis and siclyk was delapidatioun, quhairupone he requyrit the first day of Januar to be advysit with sic thingis as he hade done thairanent sen his entrie to the said bischoprie quhilk was grantit unto him, and he ordenit to gif in particularlie in wrett, all fewis, takis of teindis, utheris settis and pensionis made and gevin be him, quhome to, quhow lang, for quhat dewatty, the said day.

The quhilk day ane bill of complent was gevin in be Johnne Drummond of Petzallany againis the said Mr Andro Graham in name of the said Johnne and remanent possessuris and tennents of the kirk landis of the bischoprik of Dunblane, makand mentioun that the said Mr Andro, quhome he callis bischop of Dunblane, hes nocht onelie to the grit hurt, damage and skayth of his successuris bot alsua to the extreim hurt of us, possessuris and tennentis of the saidis kirk landis, sauld, delapidat and put away the haill leving of the said bischoprie or at the lest ane gret part thair of in gret menis handis by us, the saidis possessuris and kyndlie tennentis, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the bill gevin in thairupone. The brethrein assignis the first day of Januar to the said Mr Andro Grahame to answer thairto *partibus apud acta citatis*.

Elezabeth Chisholme: Anent ane bill of complent gevin in be Elezabeth Chisholm, relict of umquhill Alexander Drummond of Megur, makand mentioun that quhair hir said umquhill spous and scho had, lyk as thay have, in tak the teindis of the landis of Kinbukis pertening to my lord Drummond in heritage and albeit the said Elezabeth hade dyvirs tymis requyrit Andro, bischop of Dunblane, to renew hir saidis takis quha onnawayis will do the samin bot maist ungodlie intendis to set the samin to utheris ovir hir hed, as scho allegis, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said bill gevin in be hir thairupone, the said Andro, bischop of Dunblane, compeirand

personallie promesit solemnitie nocht to do na wrang to the said Elezabeth in setting of ony tak of the teindis foirsaidis to na persone nor personis ovir the said Elezabethis hed without the advys and consent of the kirk hade and obtenit be him thairto.

Marione Forfar: The brethir undirstanding that forsamekill as upone the xxv day of September last bypast Marione Forfar in Dunblane was decernit be thame to be excommunicat for hir contempt and disobedience to the voice of the kirk, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in our said decreit of the det foirsaid, nochttheles the brethrein undirstanding na executioun to have follwit as yit on thair said decreit, thairfoir the brethrein ordanis and commandis Maisteris Andro Grahame and Andro Yung, ministeris at Dunblane, or ony of thame to proceed this nixt Sonday publictly to the first admonitioun againis the said Marione Forfar and to report thair executioun thairfof to us in the nixt sessioun as thai will answer thairupone.

At Striveling the first day of Januar, 1582

Presentes: James Andirson, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Alexander Chisholm, Michael Lermont, Mr William Stirling, Mr Andro Graham, ministeris; Mr James Pont, Mr Alexander Iule, Umphra Cunynghame, Duncane Narne and Robert Alexander, elderis.

Robert Mentayth: The quhilk day ane summondis beand product lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Robert Mentayth, minister, chairgeing him to have compeirit the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for his absence fra the exerceis, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the saidis summondis product thairupone, compeirit [blank] Mentayth, his sone, and product ane wreting of the said Robert Mentaythis declairand that he was veseit be God with seiknes that he mycht nocht be present. Quhilk excuse was fund ane ressonnable [sic] be the brethrein, and thairfoir remittit the said Robert for his absence.

Mr Adame Mairschell: The quhilk day ane summondis product deulie execute and indorsit upone Mr Adame Merschell, chairgeing him to have compeirit the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for his frequent absence fra the exerceis, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis, quhilk Maister Adame being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, thairfor the brethrein ordanis the said

Mr Adame to be summond of new to the effect foirsaid undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

Mr Andro Grahame: The quhilk day being assignit be the brethrein to Mr Andro Grahame to gif in, particularlie in wrett, all fewis, takis of teindis, utheris settis and pentionis made and gevin be him sen his entrie to the bischoprik of Dunblane to be veseit be the brethrein, compeirit the said Mr Andro Grahame and producit ane inventer of the fewis and takis sett be him, as it beris in the self, declairand that gif ony thing was omittit furth of the said inventar the samin was only inrespect of immemorie, quhairof gif he him self rememberit heireftir or gif ony faythfull brothur wald call him to remembrance of ony thing omittit, he wald glaidlie gif it in to the brethrein as he hes done presentlie, with the quhilk inventar producit the brethrein tuke to avys to the viij day of Januar instant, the said Mr Andro warnit thairto *apud acta*. The quhilk day being assignit be the brethrein to Mr Andro Grahame to answer to ane bill of complent producit be Johnne Drummond of Petzallany againis him compeirit the said Mr Andro and producit ane answer thairto, as it beris in the self. The brethrein at the desyr of the said Johnne Drummond assignis to him the viij day of Januar instant to reply to the said answer producit be the said Mr Andro *partibus apud acta citatis*.

Johnne Drummond off Petzallany: The quhilk day James Andirsone, moderatour, in the name and at command of the brethrein declairit and exponit to the said Johnne Drummond of Petzallany that forsamekill as he hade producit befor thame ane bill of complent againis Mr Andro Grahame to the quhilk he hade ansorit as the proces beris, in the quhilk matter the brethrein wald tak sic tryell as becumis thame and minister ecclesiasticall disceplein to ather of thame according to Goddis Word, and seing that the said Mr Andro Grahame be the ordinance of the generall kirk was subject to the censuris and disceplein to be pronuncit be thame, thairfor desyrit the said Johnne Drummond of Petzallany to declair thame gif he wald willinglie submit him self to the jurisdiction of the presbytery of Strivling in this caus and sustein the censuris of the kirk to be pronuncit be thame. Ansorit that glaidlie he wald submit him self to thair jurisdiction in censures and disceplein in this caus and obey the same as he sould be commandit. The same day compeirit the said Johnne Drummond of Petzallany and for instructioun of the bill of

complant producit be him aganis the said Mr Andro Grahame he producit ane inventar of the yeirlie dewattie pertening to the bischoprik of Dunblane (as he undirstude), as it beris in the self.

Johne Waltir, adulterar in S. Niniane parrochin: The quhilk day compeirit Johnne Waltir in Touchadame, adulterar with Jonet Clark, the man mareit, and confessit his lang disobedience to the kirk and contravening of our ordinance and injunctioun gevin to him on the vj day of Februar last bypast and thairfoir submittis him self in will of the brethrein and promesit to obey the same in tymis cuming. The brethrein, having diligentlie wyit and considerit his lang disobedience and cryme of adulterie committit be him, decernis and ordanis him to mak publict repentence at the plaice appointit for penitenttis in his parroche kirk of S. Niniane ilk Sonday quhill the brethrein be satisfieit thairwith undir the paine of excommunicatioun with certificatioun and he failze we will direct summondis *simpliciter* for pronunceing of the sentence of excommunicatioun againis him.

At Striviling the viij day of Januar, 1582

Presentes: James Andirson, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Andro Grahame, Mr William Stirling, Michael Lermouthe, Mr Arthur Futhie, Mr Andro Yung, Alexander Fargy, ministeris; Mr James Pont, commissar of Dunblane, Umphra Cunynghame, commissar of Striviling, Mr Alexander Iule, Robert Alexander, William Norwall, elderis; William Striviling; William Drummond of Miln of Nab, minister; Sir James Stirling of Keir, knyght, provest.

William Stirling: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone William Stirling, reder, chairgeing him to compeir this day to answer at the instance of the kirk for his absence fra the exerceis certane dayis conteinit in the said summondis, compeirit the said William Stirling, and, being desyrit be the moderatour to declair the caus of his absence fra the exerceis and nocht awaiting to teiche in the secund plaice on the iiij day of December last bypast and lykwys for his absence on the xj day of the said moneth and nocht making of the exerceis on the samin-day as he aucht to have done, answerit that ane lytill befor the first day of his absence he fell and hurt his leg that he mycht nocht keip nane of the saidis dayis, quhilk excuse the brethrein fand ressonable. Secundlie,

being accusit for mareing of Jonet Crystesone on William Michell in Coustrie, the said Jonet havand ane uthir husband as yit alyve callit Andro Wilsone in Waster Lainrik, quha lykwys hade committit adultrie in getting of ane bairne with Johnne Muschet in the parrochin of Kincardin, the said William denyit the said accusatioun *simpliciter*. Thridlie, being accusit for mareing of James Leckie, brothur to Waltir Leckie of that Ilk, and Jonet Leckie togethir in ane barne albeit he denyit the samin of befoir, and thairfoir was desyrit to declair the trewth the thairof, the said William, yit as of befoir, denyit that he compleitit ony mariage betuix the said James and Jonet, bot grantis that in his presens mutuall promiseis was made be the said James and Jonet to utheris to compleit mariage togethir on Sondag nixt eftir the fest of peace nixt thaireftir, according to the said Jonettis confessioun thairof made befoir the brethrein on the xxvij day of November last bypast. Fourtlie, the said William being accusit for selling of the sacrament of baptisme in taking of silvir thairfoir and siclyk for mariagis, the said William denyis the samin *simpliciter*. For the bettir tryell of the said accusatiounis layit to the chairge of the said William, the brethrein ordanis and gevis commissioun to Mr William Stirling and Michael Lermonthe, ministeris, to tak privie inquisitioun tuiching the saidis accusationis in sic plaicis and of sic personis as thai may have the best tryell thairof, and quhat thai find thairby to report againe to the sessioun.

Duncane Carrik decernit excommunicat: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execut and indorsit upone Duncane Carrik in Kippen chairgeing him to have compeirit befoir the brethrein the said day to have hard and sein him self decernit to be excommunicat for his contemp and disobedience, as the said summondis at mair lynthe beris, quhilk Duncane being oft tymis callit, compeirit nocht, the brethrein, having diligentlie wyit and deiplie considerit the said Duncanis gret obstinacie and manifest contemp of the lauchfull chairgis of the kirk besyd the odius cryme of adultrie allegit committit be him, ordanis and decernis the said Duncane to be excommunicat and cuttit aff fra the societie of Chrystis kirk and to be delyverit into the handis of the devill for the destructioun of his flesche that his saull may be saif in the day of the Lord Jesus. The brethrein ordanis and commandis William Stirling to proceid the nixt Sondag in geving of admonitioun according to

the ordur of the kirk to Duncane be the nixt Sondag that he obey the voice of the kirk and satisfie the command thair of undir the paine of excommunicatioun and the said William to report his executioun againe to the sessioun.

Mr Andro Graham : The quhilk day being assignit to [be, *deleted*] the brethrein to pronounce thair avysment on the inventar of the fewis and takis sett be the bischop of Dunblane of the bischoprie thair of producit be him, the brethrein being ryplic avysit thair with findis the samin nocht sufficient nathir in generall nor particular. First, tuiching the generall, quhair all delapidatioun of the patrimony of the kirk is devydit be him in twa heddis, viz., in setting of landis in few and in setting of teindis in tak within the just availl, quhilk divisioun is fund be the brethrein nocht to comprehend the haill pointis of dilapidatioun becaus dilapidatioun may be in setting of lang takis of landis within the just availl or lyverentis alsweill as fewis, and in geving of pentionis in lyverentis out of the patrimony to temporall personis. Secundlie, as tuiching the particularis, the said Mr Andro in the inventar producit be him confessis that thair is mony landis and teindis of the said bischoprie set be him sen his entrie bot specefeis nocht quhw lang speace the takis ar sett nor for quhat yeirlic dewatty nor for quhat pricis ilk boll of victuell is sett for, alsweill of the few landis as of the takis of teindis, nather yit quhat was the auld dewatty befor the setting sett be him, lykwys nocht specefeand qua possessit the landis and teindis of befor and quhome to thai ar sett now, and thairfor the brethrein ordanis the said Mr Andro to gif in and produce befor thame the xv day of this instant ane new inventar concerning the haill fewis and takis alsweill of landis as of teindis set be him and pentionis gevin be him to quhatsumevir persone sen his entrie with direct answer in everie ane of thame to everie ane of the heddis abone writtin. The said Mr Andro Grahame being desyrit to declair gif he hes sett ony of the assumit thrid of the bischoprik of Dunblane to ony persone or personis, the said Mr Andro confessis he hes set nane thair of and promesis to sett nane of the samin in tymis cuming. The said Mr Andro is admonesit nocht to styll him self bischop in tymis cuming nather be word nor wrett according to the ordinance of the generall assemble.

Buikis of disceplein : It is thocht gude and ordeinit be the brethrein that ilk minister within the boundis of this presbytery bring and

produce befor the brethrein thair buikis and proces of the discipline usit be thame in thair particular sessionis on the xix day off Februar nixt to be sein and considerit be thame to the effect ane uniform and generall ordur of discipline may be establischt, usit and execute within the boundis of this presbytery without ony discrepance in tymis cuming.

Petzallany contra Mr Andro Graham: In the terme assignit to Johnne Drummond of Petzallany to reply to ane answer productit be Mr Andro Grahame to ane bill of complement gevin in be the said Johnne Drummond againis the said Mr Andro, compeirit the said Johnne Drummond and productit ane reply to the said answer, as it beris in the self, and for verefeing of certane allegencis conteinit thairin productit ane instrument undir signe and subscription of Andro Drummond, notar publict, of the dett the xxj day of *Junij anno* etc., lxxix, testefeand that the said Mr Andro faythfullie promesit to caus my lord of Montrois lett the rowmis and possessionis of the kyndlie tennentis and possessuris to be possessit be thame as of befor, as at mair lynthe is conteinit thairin, and lykwys productit the copie of ane oblegatioun made be the said lord of Montrois to the said Mr Andro, as the samin beris in the self. The brethrein at the desyre of the said Mr Andro assignis to him the xv day of this instant to answer to the said reply productit be the said Johnne *partibus apud acta citatis*.

At Striviling the xv day of Januar, 1582

Presentes: James Andirsone, Mr Andro Grahame, Mr Andro Yung, Mr William Stirling, Robert Mentayth, Mr Arthur Futhie, Patrik Gillaspie, Michael Lermonthe, Alexander Fargy, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur of exerceis, Adame commendatar of Cambuskynne, Mr James Pont, Umphra Cunynghame, elderis; and Mr Johnne Broun.

James McKie, Jane Stewart: The brethir undirstanding that forsamekill as upone the xxvij day of November 1582 James McKie and Jane Stewart war decernit be thame to be excommunicat for thair contemp and disobedience to the voice of the kirk, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in our said decret of the dett foirsaid, nochtwithstanding the brethrein understanding na executioun to have follwit

as yit on thair said decreit, thairfor the brethrein ordanis and commandis Alexander Fargy, minister to the saidis personis, to proceed this nixt Sonday publictly to the first admonitioun againis the said James and Jane and to report his executioun thairof to us in the nixt sessioun as he will answer thairupone.

Adulteraris in Tullicultry: Robert Mentayth, minister at Alvayth, beand requyrit gif he hade admonesit lauchfullie according to the ordur William Wat in Tullicultrie and Jonet Dugy (quha ar decernit to be excommunicat) to obey the kirk and disceplein thairof befor the pronouncing of the sentence of excommunicatioun againis thame, the said Robert Mentayth ansorit that he hade admonesit lauchfullie the saidis personis twa sindrie Sundayis and saw na repentence of thair disobedience nor fault. Thairfor the brethrein ordanis the said Robert to proceed according to the ordur and report his executionis to the brethrein.

Mr Andro Graham: The quhilk day Mr Andro Grahame being desyrit to produce ane new inventar contening the haill fewis and takis, alsweill of landis as of teindis, sett be him of the bischoprik of Dunblane conform to the ordinance made in the last sessioun, the said Mr Andro compeirand personallie and declairit that in respect of schortnes of tyme he had nocht as yit rememberit sufficientlie on all sic things as he was ordeinit to specefie in the said inventar and thairfor promesit to avys farther and produce the said inventar the xxij day of Januar instant.

Petzallany contra Mr Andro Grahame: In the terme assignit to Mr Andro Grahame to answer to ane reply produced be Johnne Drummond of Petzallany compeirit the said Mr Andro and producit ane answer thairto, as it beris in the self, with the quhilk and remanent proces deducit betuix the saidis parteis the brethrein will advys, as thai find occasioun.

Bischoff off Iyllis: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Mr Johnne Campbell, bischoff of Iyllis, chairgeing him to compeir the said day to answer upone the heddis conteinit in ane act of the generall assemblie, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis, compeirit the said Mr Johnne personallie at quhais desyr the brethrein assignit to him the xxij day of Januar instant to answer to the heddis conteinit in the said act and everie ane of thame as he salbe particularlie demandit,

on the quhilk day he is ordeinit to mak the exerceis that the brethrein may have ane pruiſ of his doctrein alſo.

Follwis the tennour of the ſaid act of the generall aſſemblic.

Act of the generall aſſembly tuiching biſchoppis:

Acta ſeſſionis 9a xii^{jo} Octobris, 1582

Anent biſchopis, ſeing the gret ſclandir and offence riſſin to the haill kirk of this realme be thair impunitie and ovirsicht to the greif of gude menis conſciencis, the haill aſſemblic hes gevin and gevis commiſſioun to the particular preſbyteriis under ſpecefeit with all poſſible and convenient diligence to ſummond and call befor thame everie ane as thai be particularlie divydit in manir follwing, that is to ſay, the preſbyterie of Perthe, the biſhop of Murray; the preſbyterie of Edinbrugh, the biſhop of Abirdein; the preſbyterie of Mernis, the biſhop of Brechin; the preſbyterie of Dundy, the biſhop of Dunkell; the preſbyterie of Glasgw, the biſhop of Sanctandrus; the preſbiterie of Striviling, the biſchoppis of Dunblane and Iyllis; and to accuſe thame and everie ane of thame of the offence follwing, all or part, as thai ar giltye, viz., of non preaching and miniſtratioun of the ſacramentis, of negligence of doctrein or diſceplein hanting and frequenting the cumpanie of excommunicat perſonis, waſting of the patrimony of the kirk, ſetting of takis againis the actis of the kirk geving collationis of beneficis againis the tennour of the ſame actis and finallie for geving ſclandir ony wayis in lyf and converſatioun and eftir dew tryell, proces and convictioun to put ordur to everie ane of thame according to the qualetie of thair offence and actis of the aſſemblic betuix and the nixt meitting of the haill kirk as thai will answer thairto. Extract, etc.

At Striviling the xxij day of Januar, 1582

Preſentes: James Andirſone, Mr Andro Grahame, Mr William Stirling, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Alexander Fargy, Michael Lermonte, Mr Andro Yung, Patrik Gillaspie, Johnne Duncansone, miniſteris; Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur of the exerceis; Umphra Cunynghame, William Norwall, elderis; and Sir James Stirling of Keir, knycht, proveſt.

Biſhop of Iyllis: The quhilk day Mr Johnne Campbell, biſhop of the Iyllis, made the exerceis according to the ordinance made in the

last sessioun on the ordinarie text of exerceis, quhilk begouthe in the 2 chaptur of the epistle wretin to the Ephesians at the 8 vers and red to the 14 vers of the samin exclusive, and inquisition of his doctrein being tane, the brethrein findis the samin generall aggreing with the grundis of religioun bot nocht sufficient in opning up the sence and mening of the said text. The said Mr Johnne, being admonesit thairfor, declairit the caus thairfor was in him self that tuke sa schort ane day to teiche, in the quhilk tyme he was swa occupyit in aggreing of certan his freindis in Glasgw that he hade ovir schort tyme to study. The moderatour, in name of the brethrein, admonesit him to be mair diligent in exercesing him self in teiching nor he hade bein of befoir, quhilk he promesit to do.

Marione Forfar: The quhilk day Mr Andro Yung and Mr Andro Grahame being inquiryt be the moderatour gif thay, or ony of thame, hade proceidit in admonitionis againis Marione Forfar, quha is decernit to be excommunicat, as thai war commandit or nocht ansorit the said Mr Andro Yung that he hade admonesit hir publictly in pulpet this last Sunday, according to the ordur, to obey the voice of the kirk, and that as for the first admonitioun, and fand na obedience in hir as yit. Thairfor the brethrein ordanis him to proceid the nixt Sunday to the secund admonitioun againis hir and to report the samin in the nixt sessioun.

Excommunicantis in Dunblane: The same day the brethrein undirstanding the gret obstinacie and manifest contemp to the kirk done be sindrie personis in Dunblane, excommunicat and separat fra the societie of the faithfull, and in speciall be Sir William B[l]akwod, Sir William Drummond, Elezabeth Carnewethe, Agnes Cowall and Andro Blakwod, quha without all feir of God and the civill magistrat continewis and hes continewit this lang tyme past undir the sentence of excommunicatioun remaning still in cumpanie amangis the faythfull in contemp of the kirk and auctoritie thairfor, thairfor the brethrein ordanis and commandis Mr Andro Grahame, bischop thairfor, to use all lauchfull meinis he may of his offeice and auctoritie for expelling and removing of the saidis personis and all utheris excommunicantis (gif ony be within the said toun) furthe of the cumpanie of the faithfull thair, as he will answer to the brethrein thairupone.

James McKie: The quhilk day compeirit James McKie personallie

quha was decernit be our decreit to be excommunicat for his contemp and disobedience as our decreit of the dett the xxvij day of November last bypast at mair lynthe beris and grantit that he hade offendit God in disobeying the voice of his kirk be the odious cryme of adultrie committit be him with Jane Stewart, for the quhilk he offerit and promesit to obey quhat the brethrein wald command him for his saidis offencis and confessit farder that he hade alreddy separatit him self fra the said Jane Stewart and promesit nevir in tymis cuming to ressave againe hir in cumpany with him. The brethrein decernis and ordanis the said James McKie to pas to the nixt provinciall assemblie of the presbyteriis of Edinburgh, Dalkayth, Lynlithquow and Striviling to be haldin in Edinburgh, the secund day of Aprill nixt tocum thair to ressave his injunccionis for the adultrie committit with the said Jane and to obey thame undir the paine of excommunication, with certificatioun and he failze we will direct our precept *simpliciter* for pronunceing of the sentence of excommunication becaus the samin hes bein twa sindrie tymis decernit againis him alreddy for the said fault and disobedience jonit thairwith, quhilk the said James promesit to obey.

Jane Stewart: The quhilk day Alexander Fargy, minister at Logy, being desyrit gif he proceidit this last Sunday in the first admonitioun againis Jane Stewart, adultrix with James McKie, as he was ordeinit in the last sessioun, the said Alexander answerit that the said Jane was fugeteive furth of his parrochin befor Sunday last (and as it was allegit to him) that scho was presentlie dwelland in Striviling with Johnne Stewart, servand to the kingis majestie. The brethrein commandis the minister of Striviling to admoneis the said Jane in the sessioun thair of on the xxiiij day of Januar instant to obey the kirk and voice thair of, and to requyr hir gif scho will compeir befor the brethrein the xxix of this instant and satisfie the brethrein thairanent, quhilkis gif scho will nocht obey or at the lest promeis obedience, as said is, ordanis the said minister to proceid againis hir this nixt Sunday in publict admonitionis according to the ordur.

William Michell, Jonet Crystesone: The brethrein undirstanding ane gret brute to be rissin that William Stirling in Port hes compleitit mariage betuix William Michell in Coustrie and Jonet Crystesone (the said Jonet beand ane adultrix convict) by Andro Wilson, ane uther husband of hiris, quha is yit alyve, nochtwithstanding that the

said William hes alreddy denyit the samin, thairfor and for the bettir tryell thairof ordanis the said William and Jonet to be summond to answer at the instance of the kirk for sic thingis as salbe requyrit at thame undir the paine of disobedience.

William Stirling: The quhilk day Mr William Stirling and Michael Lermonthe, being inquyrit be the moderatour quhat thai hade done tuiching the inquisitioun thai war commandit to tak anent the accusatiounis that was layd againis William Stirling, answerit that sensyne thai hade done na thing thairintill bot promesit to tak inquisitioun thairanent, as thai war commandit and quhat thai fand thairby to report the samin to the brethrein of the fyft day of Februar nixt tocuin.

Mr Andro Grahame: The quhilk day Mr Andro Grahame being desyrit to produce ane new inventar contening the haille fewis and takis aswell of landis as of teindis set be him of the bischoprik of Dunblane, conform to his promeis in the last sessioun, the said Mr Andro compeirand personallie allegis as yit that in respect of schortnes of tyme he hade nocht made the said inventar swa perfyt as was requysit and thairfor promesit to produce the samin sufficient on the xxix day of Januar instant according to the brethreinis ordinance made thairanent.

Mr Johnne Campbell: The quhilk day being assignit to Mr Johnne Campbell, bischop of Iyllis, to answer to the heddies conteinit in the act of the generall assemblie of the dett at Edinburgh the xij day of October 1582 and everie ane of thame as follwis in the said act, compeirit personallie the said Mr Johnne and being accusit thairupone as eftir follwis particularlie, viz., for nonpreiching of the Word and administratioun of the sacramentis, negligence of doctrein and disceplein, hanting and frequenting the cumpany of excommunicat personis, namelie, Mr Robert Montgumrie and Colein Campbell in Glasgw, geving callationis of beneficis againis the actis of the generall assemblie, for geving scandir onywayis in lyf and conversatioun and finallie for wasting and dilapidatioun of the patrimony of the kirk and setting of takis thairof againis the saidis actis of the generall assemblie, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said act of the det foirsaid. The said Mr Johnne answerit as follwis. *In primis*, to the first quhair he is accusit for nonpreiching of the Word and administratioun of the sacramentis and for negligence

in doctrein and disceplein answerit that he preichit the Word and ministrat the sacramentis at the kirk of Ycolumkill quhill the beginning of Merche *anno* 1580, at the quhilk tyme my lord McLane discordit with him for reducein of ane certane few set to him be Mr Johnne Carswall, his predicessur, thrw the quhilk discord he was compellit to lave that cuntrie at that tyme and sensyne hes nocht resortit thair, bot eftir he come in Argyll he preichit and ministrat the sacramentis in the kirk of Ardchattane oft tymis quhen he was thair. Farder, the said Mr Johnne confessit that he come to the lawland nocht lang eftir the said discord, as said is, quhair he remainit the speace of half ane yeir in sutting remeddis fra the king and counsell for wrangis done to him be the said McLane, during the quhilk tyme he preichit in na plaice. Being accusit for non-executing of disceplein, answerit that quhen he teichit, he executit disceplein as occasioun servit. Secundlie being accusit for hanting with excommunicat personis, namelie, Mr Robert Montgumrie and Collein Campbell in Glasgw, answerit and confessit that Mr Robert Montgumrie send ane wreting to him in the nycht to cum and speik with him, quhilk he refusit *simpliciter* and denyit ony farther with him in confirrence athir be word or wrett sen he was excommunicat. As tuiching the said Collein, he answerit that he nevir spak with him sen he was excommunicat quhill he hade entirat in satisfeing the injunctiounis of the kirk and hade bein twys befor the kirk in secclayth and denyis cumpany and confirrence with all uthir excommunicantis. Thridlie, being accusit for geving of callatiounis of beneficis againis the actis of the generall assemblie, answerit that he gave sum collatiounis befor the said act, bot nane sensyne. Ferdlie, being accusit of his lyf and conversatioun answerit that as he undirstude he hade gevin na occasioun of sclandir thairin and refarrit the testimony thair of to quhatsumevir brethrein it sould plais the brethrein of this presbytery to inquyr of in hieland or law land. Fyftlie, being accusit for wasting and dilapidatioun of the patrimony of the kirk and setting of takis thair of againis the actis of the generall assemblie, answerit that he hade nathir sett fewis nor takis to na persone of the patrimony thair of bot sen his entires had reducit ane few sett to my lord Macclane be Mr Johnne Carswall his predicessur.

The brethrein, being avysit with the said Mr Johnnis answeris havand na farther testimony thair of bot his awin confessioun, thoct

gude and ordeinit publict edickis to be direct to the parroche kirkis of Ycolumkill and Ardchattan, makand intimatioun to all personis of the commissioun gevin to this presbytery be act of the generall assemblie for trying of the said Mr Johnne in the heddis abone specefeit, chairgeing all and quhatsumevir that hes ony thing to object againis the said Mr Johnne in the offencis foirsaidis that thai compeir befor the said presbytery the xxvj day of Merche nixt, and lykwys that ane edict be direct of the forme foirsaid with the copie of the said act of the generall assemblie to Mr Neill Campbell and remanent brethrein of Argyll, makand intimatioun to thame lykwys of our said commissioun for tryell of the said Mr Johnne, as said is, desyrand thame to report to us faythfullie quhat thai know in him concerning the heddis foirsaidis, and everie ane of thame betuix and the xxvj day of Merche foirsaid, as thai will answer to the generall assemblie of the kirk thairupone.

James Leckie: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone James Leckie chairgeing him to compeir the said day to heir and se the brethreinis avyement and sentence pronuncit anent thair command desyrit be the said James to be gevin to Patrik Gillaspie, his minister, to proclame lauchfullie, as effeiris, ane promeis of mariage made betuix him and Merjorie Erskine and thaireftir to solemneiz mariage betuix thame, the said James compeirand personallie the brethrein as yit nocht being fully avysit thairwith continewis thair jugementis thairin to farthir confirrence that thai may be farther resolvit of all douttis thairintill.

Pyper, William Wricht: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Thomas Edmane, pyper, and William Wricht in Nathir Inveralloun to compeir the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for sic thingis as sould have bein layit to thair chairgis undir the paine of disobedience, quhilk personis being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, thairfor the brethrein ordanis thame to be summond of new to the effect foirsaid undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

At Strivling the xxix day of Januar, 1582

Presentes: James Andirson, Alexander Fargy, Mr William Stirling, Mr Arthur Futhie, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Alexander Chis-

holme, Michael Lermonthe and Mr Andro Yung, ministeris; William Scott, reder; Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur of exerceis; Mr James Pont, Umphra Cunynghame, commissar of Strivling and William Norwall, elderis.

Marione Forfar: The quhilk day Mr Andro Yung, being requyrit gif he hade proceidit and gevin the secund admonitioun to Marione Forfar in Dunblane to obey and satisfie the kirk befor the pronuncein of the sentence of excommunicatioun againis hir as he was ordeinit or nocht, ansorit that the said Marione promesit to compeir this day befor the brethrein and satisfie the kirk, quha instantlie compeirit personallie and confessit hir to have offendit God in disobeying the voice of the assemblie of hir awin parroche, and lykwys the voice of this presbytery, for the quhilk scho offerit hir self to obey the command of the brethrein, and lykwys confessit hir to have committit fornicatioun with William Quhythed fyve yeir syne or thairby, and lykwys with Johnne Ure twa yeir syne or thairby, and that undir promiseis of mariage with the said William and Johnne, for the quhilk fornicatioun committit be hir, as said is, the said Marione offeris hir self to obey the kirk. The brethrein being avysit with the said Marion disobedience to the voice of the kirk decernis and ordanis hir to mak publict repentence thairfor the nixt Sondag in the plaice appointit for penitentis within hir parroche kirk of Dunblane, according to the ordur, and for the fornicatioun committit be hir, as said is, ordanis hir to mak publict repentence at the plaice fairsaid on Sondag the x day of Februar nixt and on the Sondag nixt thaireftir undir all hiest paine and chairge that eftir mycht follw be the censuris of the kirk.

Johnne Tailyour: The quhilk day compeirit Johnne Tailyour in the parrochin of Dunblane and confessit him to have committit a gret fault againis God in disobeying the voice of his awin kirk, for the quhilk he offeris him self in the will of the brethrein. The brethrein being avysit thairwith ordanis the said Johnne to mak publict repentence in his awin parroche kirk according to the ordur the nixt Sondag for his said disobedience and thaireftir to obey the voice of his awin kirk undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

Mr Andro Grahame: The quhilk day being assignit to Mr Andro Grahame to produce ane new inventar contening the haill fewis and takis, alsweill of landis as of teindis, set be him of the bischoprik of

Dunblane conform to his promeis on the xxij day of Januar instant, the said Mr Andro being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. The brethrein ordanis him to be summond to compeir befor thame the fyft of Februar nixt to produce befor thame the inventar of the haill fewis, takis and pentionis gevin and set be him of the said bischoprik according to thair ordinance made on the viij day of Januar instant in all pointis undir the paine of disobedience.

Act of the generall assemblie for setting of fewis and takis, etc.: The quhilk day the extract of ane act of the generall assemblie made anent setting of fewis and takis of benefices etc., was intimat be the moderatour to the assemblie quhairof the tennour follwis.

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Anent the penalty of bischoppis, ministeris and utheris berand functioun in the ministrie that settis, fewis and takkis of thair benefices and ecclesiastik levingis or ony part thair of or ministeris in chapiteris that gevis thair consentis thairto without the consent of the generall assemblie of the kirk againis the tennour of the actis made in assemblie befor the kirk and assemblie present hes votit and concludit that the saidis personis quhilk sall happin to contravein the said act salbe depyryt frome thair officis and functiounis in tyme cuming. Extract, etc.

Jane Stewart: The quhilk day compeirit Jane Stewart, quha was decernit be decret of the brethrein to be excommunicat for hir contemp and disobedience, as the samin of the dett the xxvij day of November last at mair lynthe beris, and grantit hir to have committit ane gret fault be hir said disobedience besyd the odious cryme of adultrie committit be hir with James McKie, for the quhilkis offensic the said Jane offeris hir self in the will of the kirk and promesis to obey thair ordinance, and farder confessit that scho had alreddy separatit hir self fra the said James McKie and sall nevir agane entir in cumpanie with him. The brethrein decernis and ordanis the said Jane to pas to the nixt provinciall assemblie of the presbyteriis of Edinburgh, Dalkayth, Linlythquow and Striviling to be haldin in Edinburgh the ij day of Aprill nixtocum thair to ressave [hir, *deleted*] injunctionis to be adjonit to hir for the adultrie committit be hir with the said James McKie and to obey thame undir the paine of excommunicatioun, with certificatioun and scho failze we will command the said sentence to be pronuncit againis hir

according to the decreit alreddy pronuncit becaus the samin sentence hes bein 2 sindrie tymis decernit to be execut againis hir for the said adultrie and disobedience jonit thairwith, inrespect of the quhilkis ordanis the scribe to gif out testimoniall to testefie hir present obedience to the kirk.

Fundlein bairne: The quhilk day it was intimat to the brethrein be James Andirson, minsiter at Striviling, that thair was ane mane chyld fund on ane gait syd, quhilk passis up fra the fut of Marie wynd to the castell of Striviling, quhilk now is [blank] yeiris of aige or thairby, quhilk nevir was knawin to have bein baptezit. Thairfor, William McNair, nuresar and fosterar of the said mane chyld, presentlie desyrit him to bapteis the said bairne, quhilk the said minister desyrit the brethreinis jugement thairanent. The brethrein being avysit thairwith eftir diligent inquisitioun being tane of the brethrein presentlie conveynit could nocht find quhair the said mane chyld hade bein baptezit befor, thairfor thocht gude that the said minister of Striviling sould caus warne befor the sessioun of his awin kirk the said William McNair, fosterar thairof, quhome he sould admoneis to teiche the said bairne the sowme of ane Christiane fayth, viz., the xij articillis of the beleif that he mycht gif ane confessioun thairof the tyme he ressavit the sacrament of baptisme and thaireftir the said minister to proceed and bapteis the said fundlein bairn lauchfullie according to the ordur.

William Scott: The quhilk day being appointit to William Scott, allegit admittit minister at the kirk of Callender, to teiche privallie in the minister of Strivilingis chalmir on the last part of the last chaptur of the evangelist Mathw, compeirit the said William and teichit on the said text with quhais teiching the brethrein of the ministrie present being avysit findis the samin sound and thairfor continewis him, as of befor, to exhort unto his flok and minister baptisme quhill thai tak farder tryell of him.

At Striviling the fyft day of Februar, 1582

Presentes: James Andirson, Johnne Duncansone, Mr Andro Grahame, Mr William Stirling, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Michaell Lermonthe, Mr Andro Young, Alexander Fargy, ministeris; Mr James Pont, Alexander Patersone, William

Norwall, Duncane Narne, elderis; Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur of exerceis; Sir James Stirling of Keir, knycht, provest; and Mr Johnne Stewart.

Exerceis beginnis at ix houris: The brethrein thinkis gude and ordeinis that the exerceis begin at ix houris befor none inrespect of the lynthe [schort, *deleted*] of the day presentlie.

Mr Andro Graham: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Mr Andro Grahame chairgeing him to compeir the said day and produce befor the brethrein the inventar of the haill fewis, takis and pentionis gevin and set be him of the bischoprik off Dunblane, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis, compeirit the said Mr Andro and productit ane inventar of the fewis, takis and pentionis gevin and sett be him, as it beris in the self, with the quhilk the brethrein tuke to avys to the xix day of Fabruar instant, the said Mr Andro wairnit thairto *apud acta*.

Buikis off disceplein: The quhilk day being appointit to the brethrein to produce thair buikis of disceplein to be veseit according to ane ordinance made thairanent on the viij day of Januar last bypast, it was ansorit that thai hade thame nocht present bot sould produce thame heireftir.

James Drummond: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execut and indorsit upone James Drummond, dwelland in the parrochin of Muthill, chairgein him to have compeirit the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for fornicatioun allegit committit be him with Elezabeth Forsythe and to heir and se him self decernit to have committit the samin and to underly the censuris of the kirk thairfoir, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis, the said James being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. Thairfor the brethrein ordanis the said James to be summond of new to the effect foirsaid undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

William Stirling: The quhilk day Mr William Stirling and Michaell Lermonthe being desyrit to report to the brethrein quhat thai hade tryit be the privie inquisitioun that thai war commandit to tak anent the accusationis layit againis William Stirling, reder, ansorit that thai could nocht gait tryell of na fault in him excep that thair is ane gret bruit that he sould have mareit Jonet Crystesone, devorcit for adultrie fra Andro Wilson, hir husband, with ane uthir

mane callit William Michell in Coustrie, and that na witnessis wald testefie to thame nor abyd be the same unles thai war summond befor the presbytery. For tryell of the quhilk, the brethrein ordanis the said William Michell and Jonet Crystesone to be summond to answer at the instance of the kirk for sic thingis as sould be layit unto thair chairge undir the paine of disobedience.

At Striviling the xij day of Februar, 1582

Presentes: James Andirson, Johnne Duncansone, Mr Andro Grahame, Mr Andro Yung, Michael Lermonte, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Arthur Futhie, Alexander Fargy, ministeris; Mr Duncane Nevein, reder; Mr James Pont, Umphra Cunyngham, elderis; Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur of exerceis; David, commendatar of Dryburgh; Johnne Bruce of Auchinbowie and Mr Johnne Stewart.

Patrik Layng: The quhilk day ane summondis beand productit deulie execute and indorsit upone Patrik Layng chairgeing him to have compeirit the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for his lang and frequent absence fra our exerceis and assembleis contenuallie sen the fourt day of September last bypast, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis, the said Patrik being oft tymiscallit compeirit nocht, thairfor ordanis the said Patrik to be summond of new to the effect foirsaid undir the paine off excommunication.

James Lecky: The quhilk day ane summondis beand productit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone James Leckie chairgeing him to compeir the said day to heir and se the brethreinis avysment and sentence pronuncit anent thair command desyrit be him to be gevin to Patrik Gillaspie, his minister, to proclame ane promeis of mariage made betuix him and Merjorie Erskine and thaireftir to solemneiz mariage betuix thame according to the ordur, the said James compeirand personallie, the moderatour in name of the brethrein declairit to the said James that it is the avys and jugement of the brethrein of the presbytery of Edinburgh that he sall nather be proclamit nor mareit with the said Marjorie for the causis conteinit in ane act maid anent the tryell of adultrie allegit committit be the said James with Jonet Leckie, of the dett the xxvij day of November last bypast, bot the brethrein of this presbytery suspendis thair jugementis and sentence thairin quhill thai be avysit with the brethrein

of the nixt synnodall assemblie of this province to be haldin in Edinburgh the secund day of Aprill nixt, and decernis and ordanis the said James Leckie to separat him self fra the said Merjorie with all diligence and nocht to entir in cumpanie agane with hir bot remane fra hir societie quhill the brethreinis sentence be pronuncit thairintill undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

Robert Fogo: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Robert Fogo in Doun chairgeing him to have compeirit the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for sic things as sould have being layit unto his chairge undir the paine of excommunicatioun, quhilk Robert being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. Thairfor the brethrein ordanis him to be summond to heir and se him self decernit to be excommunicat for his contemp and disobedience with certificatioun and he failze the brethrein will proceid and decern him to be excommunicat for the caus foirsaid according to the Word of God and disceplein of the kirk, havand the warrand thairfor thairin.

Johnne Stevinsone, reder: The quhilk day Johnne Stevinsone, reder at the kirk of Kincardin, was accusit be the moderatour to declair the trewth gif he hade proclaimit ane promeis of mariage allegit made betuix William Michell in Coustrie and Jonet Crystesone in the said kirk or nocht, the said Johnne confessit that he hade proclaimit the said promeis in the said kirk thre soverall Sondagis and na impediment was allegit to him in the contrar and thairfor thaireftir he subscrivit ane testimoniall testefeand the same quhilk he delyverit to the said [blank]. The brethrein continewis farther tryell heirin quhill thai be farther avysit.

At Strivling the xix day of Februar, 1582

Presentes: James Andirsone, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Andro Grahame, Mr William Stirling, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Mr Andro Yung, Alexander Fargy, Michael Lermont, Patrik Layng, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iule, Mr James Pont, Umphra Cunynghame, elderis; William Scott, Mr Duncane Nevein and William Stirling, rederis; Sir James Stirling of Keir, knyght, provest; and Mr Johnne Stewart.

William Michell, Jonet Crysteson: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone William

Michell in Coustrie chairgeing him to compeir the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for sic thingis as salbe requyrit at him, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis, compeirit the said William Michell and confessit him to be mareit with Jonet Crystesone in the kirk of Kippen on ane Thurisday be William Stirling, reder thairat, and confessit that thair bannis was lauchfullie proclaimit in thair parroche kirk of Kincardin be Johnne Steinsone, reder thairat. Lykwys, compeirit the said Jonet Crystesone and confessit hir self to have bein mareit on Andro Wilsone, now in Waster Lainrik, be Alexander Fargy, minister, in hir parroche kirk of Kincardin fyve yeir syne or thairby quhome scho belevis be yit on lyve and confessit that scho hade borne ane bairne gottin on hir in adulterie be Johnne Muschet in Kincardin by hir said husband and that scho was divorcit fra hir said husband thairfoir be Mr James Pont, commissar of Dunblane, havand commissioun of the commissaris of Edinburgh to that effect, quhilk Mr James beand personallie present testefeit the samin and that the said Andro Wilsone hade libertie be the samin decret to marie in the Lord. Attour, the said Jonet Crystesone confessit hir mareit at midsomir last bypast or thairby on the said William Michell in the kirk of Kippen on ane Thurisday be the said William Stirling, reder thairat, according to the said William Michell confessioun in all pointtis. Mairattour, compeirit the said William Stirling and confessit the mareing of the said William Michell and Jonet Crystesone according to thair confessionis, albeit he denyit the samin of befoir. The brethrein continewis thair jugementis anent the mariage made betuix the said William and Jonett, and anent the said William Stirling, quha made the said mariage to the fyft day of Merche nixtocum, the said William Michell, Jonet Crystesone and William Stirling warnit thairto *apud acta*.

Patrik Layng: The quhilk day ane summondis beand productit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Patrik Layng chairgeing him to compeir the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for his lang and frequent absence fra our exerceis and assembleis contenuallie sen the iiij day of September last bypast, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis, compeirit the said Patrik Layng and being accusit for his absence thespeace foirsaid excusit the samin for iij rassonis. First, that he hade bot ane small stepend of ane reder

to sustein his chairgis and his kirk and dwelling was fyve myll distant fra this toun and thairfor allegit he mycht nocht gudlie be astrictit to keip the exerceis ilk Tyisday. Secundlie, allegit that thrw the keiping of the exerceis in tymis past he hade tint his schulle thrw the quhilk he gat ane gret part of his leving. Thridlie, that thairthrw he hade tint ane offeice of ane court clark, thruch the quhilk he hade commoditie to leiv upone, and thairfoir desyrit the brethrein to accep his absence in gude pairt and he sould be efter present in tymis cuming. The brethrein being avysit with his saidis excusis accepis thame presentlie as thai ar of availl and ordenis him to ad in the exerceis on the xij of Merche and to mak thame on the xix day of Merche.

William Wingyett: The samin day compeirit William Wingyet in Touchadame and grantis fornicatioun with Jonet Johnesone in Couldinhuis and that as for the fourt fault in thame bayth, and the said William refusis to marie the said Jonet, for the quhilk he is decernit and commandit be the brethrein to pas to the nixt provinciall assemblie of this province to be haldin in Edinburgh the second day of Aprill nixt thair to ressave his injunctionis for the said fault and to obey thame undir the paine of excommunicatioun with certificatioun and he failze, we will decerne the sentence thairof to be pronuncit againis him and for obedience of this our ordinance commandis the said William to act cautioun in the buikis of the commissar of Striviling betuix and the xxiiij day of this instant that he sall obey and fulfill this our ordinance, as said is, undir the painis conteinit in the actis of parliament and generall assemblie of the kirk.

Johnne Dow: The quhilk day ane summondis beand productit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Johnne Dow in Kildeis chairgeing him to compeir the said day to heir and se him self decernit to underly the censuris of the kirk for disobedience to the voice of the sessioun of his awin kirk and tryell tane in fornicatioun allegit committit be him with [blank], as the said summondis at mair lynthe beris, the said Johnne being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, thairfor ordanis him to be summond of new to the effect foirsaid undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

Thomas Quhyt: The quhilk day ane summondis beand productit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Thomas Quhyt in Kildeis, allegit adulterar with Agnes Gentill, chairgeing him to compeir the

said day to heir and se him self decernit to have committit the said adultrie, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis, the said Thomas being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. Thairfor the brethrein ordanis him to be summond of new to the effect foirsaid undir the pane of excommunicatioun.

Mr Andro Grahame: The quhilk day being appointit be the brethrein to avys with the inventar of the fewis, takis and pentionis gevin and sett be Mr Andro Grahame, bischop of Dunblane, of the bischoprik thair of sen his entrie thairto, the brethrein findis that the said Mr Andro confessis thairin that the fewis and takis sett be him sen his entrie ar set for the auld dewatty withe the pultrie, carrage of pettis and uthir arrage and carrage astrictit of auld to the bischop thair of, and the brethrein nocht being certefeit gif the pultrie, carrage of pettis and uthir arrage and carrage was now payit to the said bischop as thai war of auld or nocht. Thairfor the said Mr Andro, beand requyrit be the moderatour to declair the trewth thair of, confessit that he hade sett the pultrie, carrage of pettis and uthir arrage and carrage for silvir bot rememberit nocht the speciall sowme thair of and thairfoir confessit thai ar nocht now payit to the plaice as of befoir.

The brethrein being avysit with the said inventar producit be the said Mr Andro Grahame findis, in generall, that be the fewis and takis sett be him of the bischoprik of Dunblane that he hes hurt the patrimony thair of and for tryell of the speciallis thair of appointis and gevis commissioun to James Andirsone, moderatour, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr James Pont, Umphra Cunynghame and Mr Alexander Iule to avys thairupone and to report thair jugementis to the nixt sessioun on the xxvj day of Februar instant, the said Mr Andro warnit thairto *apud acta*.

The brethrein being avysit with Mr Andro Grahams answer made to that part of the act of the generall assemblie, viz., for nonpreiching of the Word and administratioun of the sacramentis and considerit his excusis thairin findis his saidis excusis nocht sufficient to excuse his absence fra his kirk the speace of ane haill yeir and thairfor decernis him convict of that part of the said act, viz., in nonpreiching of the Word, administratioun of the sacramentis the speace of ane haill yeir according to his awin confessioun.

Farder, the said Mr Andro being accusit gif he hade preichit or

ministrat the sacramentis in his awin kirk off Dunblane at any tyme sen his returning furth of the northe partis that he acceptit plaice in this presbytery, viz., sen the xj day of December last bypast or nocht, answerit that he was swa occupyit with making answer to the act of the generall assemblie to the brethrein that he could have na tyme to studie and thairfor confessit he hade teichit nane nor yit ministrat the sacramentis sensyne. The brethrein, being advysit with the said Mr Andro answer, findis the samin na sufficient excuis, and thairfor convictis him negligent in doctrein sen the xj day of December last bypast.

The brethrein, being avysit with the accusatioun of the said Mr Andro on the secund part of the act of the generall assemblie, viz., for hanting with excommunicat personis and his answer thairto, togethir with the testimonie of the brethrein of Dunblane, pronuncis him innocent thairto inrespect of his answer and testimonie foirsaid. The brethrein, being avysit with the accusatioun layit againis the said Mr Andro Grahame on the thrid part of the act of the generall assemblie, viz., for geving of collationis off beneficis againis the actis of the generall assemblie and his answer made thairto togethir with the testimonie of the brethrein of Dunblane, pronuncis him innocent thairto inrespect of his answer and testimonie foirsaid. The brethrein, being avysit with the accusatioun layit againis the said Mr Andro Grahame on ane uther part of the said act of the generall assemblie, viz., for geving sclandir ony wayis in his lyf and conversatioun, and his answer made thairto togethir with the testimonie of the brethrein of Dunblane, findis na thing in his lyf bot godlines and honestie.

At Striviling the xxvj day of Februar, 1582

Presentes: James Andirson, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Alexander Fargy, Mr Arthur Futhie, Mr Andro Yung, Johnne Duncanson, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur of the exerceis; Mr Duncane Nevein and William Stirling, rederis; Mr James Pont and Umphra Cunynghame, elderis.

Mr Andro Grahame: The quhilk day the brethrein appointit in the last sessioun to try be the inventar product be Mr Andro Grahame, conteining the fewis and takis set be him of the bishoprik of Dunblane in quhat speciallis the said Mr Andro hes hurt the patri-

mony of the said bischoprik, reportit to the remanent brethrein that, be thair apperance, the said Mr Andro hes diminisit the auld rentall of the said bischoprik be setting of sum fewis and takis sen his entrie thairto be diminutioun of bollis of victuell yeirlie, and setting of ane grit part thairof for viij s. the boll and including the teindis with the fewis for the sam price quhilkis was separat of befoir fra the landis and the teindis led in in victuell to the plaice of befoir and also that he hes sett ane gret part of landis in few to utheris thane the auld possessuris. The brethrein thinkis gude and ordeinis ane summondis to be direct to summond certane witnessis that best kennis the trewthe [thairof, *deleted*] to beir lell and suthfast witnessing tuiching the rentall of the bischoprik of Dunblane insafar as thai knaw or salbe speirit at thame, ilk persone undir the paine of disobedience and that the said Mr Andro be summond to heir thame ressavit, sworne and admittit, with certificatioun and he failze witnessis salbe ressavit.

At Striviling the fyft day of Merche, 1582

Presentes: James Andirsone, Mr Andro Grahame, Mr Andro Yung, Mr William Stirling, Michaell Lermonthe, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Alexander Fargy, Patrik Gillaspie, Johnne Duncanson, Patrik Layng, ministeris; David, commendatar of Drybrugh; William Stirling, William Scott, rederis; Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur of exerceis; Umphra Cunynghame, Alexander Patersone, Duncane Narne, elderis.

William Stirling: The quhilk day William Stirling, reder, made the exerceis on the ordinarie text of exerceis, quhilk begouth in the 3 chaptur of the epistle wrettin to the Ephesians at the 20 vers and red to the 4 vers of the fourth chaptur exclusive, and inquisitioun of his doctrein being tane, the brethrein jugis that the said William undirstude nocht that quhilk he teichit and thocht that apperandlie he hade his said doctrein pennit in wrett and thaireftir cumit the same perqweir.

The brethrein having considerit the travellis and painis sustenit be thair scryb James Duncansone without ony gratitude or payment payit to him thairfoir consentis and aggreis that for the present necessitie he sall have ten pundis mony of feall thairfoir yeirlie at Witsonday and Mertimes to be payit to him ay and quhill the

brethren obtain to him ane better feall or als gude sum uthir way. For payment of the quhilk feall for his wreting in our sessioun and doing the offeice pertening to ane clark in sic assembleis, the brethren in the ministrie undirsubscryvand obleisis thame to pay him yeirlye at the termis foirsaidis during the said speace ten schillingis mony for ilk hundir pund thai have assignit to thame for thair serveice in the ministrie and consenttis that he have yeirlye of the elderis in the presbytery as thai will gif of thair gude wills the first terme payment to begin at Witsonday nixt. [*Signed:*] James Andirson, Patrik Gillaspie, M. Androu Grayme, minister at Dunblane, Mr Arthour Fethie, A. Young, M. William Strivling, Alexander Fargy.

Continuatioun: The quhilk day being assignit to the brethren to pronounce thair jugementis anent the mareing of William Michell and Jonet Crystesone togethir, compeirit bayth the saidis personis personallie. The brethren will nocht acknowlege the samin as lauchfull mariage presentlie and continewis thair jugementis thairin to the first day of May nixt and commandis the said William and Jonet to separat thame selffis sindrie with all diligence and remane sindrie quhill the brethren pronounce thair jugementis thairin undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

William Stirling: The samin day being assignit to the brethren to pronounce thair jugementis anent William Stirling that mareit the said Jonet Crystesoun on the said William, quha was divorcit of befor fra Andro Wilsone, hir spous, for adultrie committit be hir, compeirit the said William personallie and being demandit of the moderator to declair quhat occasionis movit him to compleit the said mariage, the said William ansorit that he ressavit ane testimoniall subscryvit be Johnne Stevinsone, reder at thair parroche kirk of Kincardin, quhilk testimoniall he producit of the det the xij day of Junij 1582, and lykwys becaus thai wantit thane, as thai do yit, ane minister at thair awin parroche kirk to marie thame, quhilk rassonis movit him to compleit the said mariage. Farder, the said William, being demandit gif he ressavit ony gratitude for making of the said mariage, confessis he ressavit twa half merk pecis thairfoir, and that he was nocht thair minister bot that thai war parrochinnaris of Kincardin kirk, with the quhilk parrochin he hade na thing to do concerning his offeice. The brethren findis that be making of the said mariage the said William hes brokin twa actis of the generall

assemble, ane that na minister sould marie personis divorcit, ane uthir that na minister sould marie personis that dwellis bayth outwith his parrochin without lycence of the elderschip. Farther, the said William being demandit gif he mareit Johnne Gourlay and Cristane Gourlay in the kirk of Kippen on Sondag immediatlie preceeding fasternisevinlast or nocht and quhair thair bannis was proclaimit, the said William confessit that he mareit the saidis personis in the said kirk the said day at 6 houris in the morning or thairby, and that thair bannis was nocht proclaimit and that he said Johnne was ane parrochinnar of S. Lollanis kirk, viz., the parroche kirk of Kincardin, and that he knew nocht in quhat parrochin the woman dwelt. The brethrein continewis thair farther jugementis anent the said William to the xix day of Merche instant, the said William warnit thairto *apud acta*. The brethrein ordanis Johnne Stevinsonsone, reder at the kirk of Kincardin, to be summond to answer at the instance of the kirk for proclaiming of Jonet Crystesone in the said kirk with William Michell, the said Jonet beand divorcit fra Andro Wilsone, hir husband, for adultrie on hir part of befor, and farder as he salbe demandit.

Mr Andro Grahame: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone William Scott, exhortar at the kirk of Callender, and James Stirling in Dunblane chairgeing thame to compeir the said day to beir lell and suithfast witnessing for preving of the just auld rentall of the bischoprik of Dunblane and chairgeing Mr Andro Graham, bischop thairof, to compeir the said day to heir and se the saidis witnessis ressavit, sworne and admittit, as at mair lynthe is contenit in the said summondis, compeirit the said Mr Andro personallie. The saidis witnessis was ressavit, sworne and admittit. The brethrein ordanis utheris witnessis to be summond to the effect fairsaid ilk persone undir the paine of disobedience to the xix day of Merche instant, the said Mr Andro warnit thairto *apud acta*.

Duncane Carrik: The quhilk day compeirit Duncane Carrik in Kippen (beand decernit to be excommunicat for disobedience to the kirk) and offerit him self in the will of the kirk and being accusit be the moderatour for committing adultrie, confessit him self mareit with Agnes Iull and hes gevin ane bairne by hir in adultrie with Agnes Finlasone, for the quhilk he offeris obedience to the kirk, for

the quhilk he is decernit be the brethrein to pas to the nixt provinciall assemblie of this province to be haldin in Edinburgh, the second day of Aprill nixt, thair to ressave injunctionis for his said fault and to obey thame undir the paine of excommunicatioun. The said Duncane ansorit and allegit that he mycht nocht pas to Edinburgh inrespect of ane gret infirmitie and seiknes he hade thruch the gravell berassone quhairof he mycht nocht travell, with the quhilk allegiance the brethren tuke to advys to the xij day of Merche instant that they micht try in the mentyme gif the said Duncanis allegiance was of varetie or nocht.

At Striviling the xij day of Merche, 1582

Presentes: James Andirson, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Arthur Futhie, Michael Lermonte, Mr Andro Yung, Mr Adame Merschell, Mr Alexander Chisholme and Patrik Layng, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iulee, brothur of the exerceis; Mr James Pont, Umphra Cunynghame, Robert Alexander and William Norwall, elderis.

Duncane Carrik: The brethrein, being advysit with Duncane Carrikis allegiance, ordanis and decernis him (nochtwithstanding thairof) to pas to the nixt provinciall assemblie the ij day of Aprill nixt to cum to be haldin in Edinburgh to the effect and undir the paine conteinit in thair ordinance made thairanent in the last sessioun, becaus his allegiance is nocht varefeit to the brethrein.

Ane act for executioun of summondis: The brethrein undirstanding that sindrie and dyvirs summondis ar directit furth in name of this presbytery for summonding of sindrie personis to compeir befor thame for tryell of sic offencis as concernis thame to juge, quhilk ar neglectit in the executioun, thrw the quhilk the disceplein of the kirk stayis onexecute againis sclanderus personis, thairfor statuttis and ordanis that ilk minister* for thair awin parttis, and that the minister, ressavar of the said summondis, report the samin againe to the scribe of our sessioun dewlie execute and indorsit in dew and convenient tyme, quhilk minister salbe haldin to answer for the executioun thairof quhensoevir he salbe requyrit, and quhen it sall happin ony summondis to be direct againis ony minister or reder that the minister that dwellis nixt to him quhome againis the summondis is direct caus execute the samin and report it againe, as

* For omission in text, see p. 311

said is, quha salbe haldin to answer for the executioun thair of, as is befoir writtin, and quhasoevir neglectis the obedience of this act, as is abone writtin, and to that effect seikis nocht the summondis sall pay for the first fault xl d., the 2. fault to be doubillit, and the 3. to be repleit.

Ane act anent absentis the day of exerceis: The brethrein persaving sindrie ministeris within the boundis of this presbytery to be oft absent fra the exerceis and sessioun excusand thair absence sumtyme be baptezine of bairnis and examining of thair congregatioun befoir the ministratioun of the Lordis Supper, thairfor it is statute and ordeinit be universall consent of the brethrein that na minister fra this furth upon the ordinar day of exerceis, viz., ilk Twysday ministrat baptisme, mariage nor exame ony of his congregatioun nor use na uthir kynd of exerceis that day, that may withhauld him fra the exerceis undir the paine of [blank].

Ane act that the communioun sall nocht be ministrat in Lenterun nor on peace day, sa callit: The brethrein findis that the ministratioun of the sacrament of the Lordis Supper to the pepill on the day callit of auld peace day or in the tyme of Lenterun augmentis ane auld superstitioun that is in the hairttis of sum personis, to wit, that the said day callit peace day or the tyme of Lenterun is ane mair hally tyme nor uthir tymis of the yeir and thairfor inrespect of the tyme thinkis the sacrament thane ministrat the holyar, for avoyding of the quhilk superstitioun the brethrein with ane consent ordanis and commandis that na minister within the boundis of this presbytery fra the first day of Aprill nixt tocum furth minister the sacrament of the Lordis Supper to ony congregationis on the said day callit of auld peace day nor at na tyme within the speace of Lenterun, sa callit.

Thomas Quhyt, allegit adulterar: The quhilk day ane summondis beand product lauchfullie execut and indorsit upone Thomas Quhyt in Kildeis chairgeing [him] to have compeirit the said day to heir and se him self decernit to have committit adultrie with Agnes Gentill and to undirly the censuris of the kirk thairfor undir the paine of excommunicatioun, quhilk Thomas being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. Thairfor the brethrein ordanis him to be summond to heir and se him self decernit to be excommunicat for his contemp and disobedience, with certificatioun and he failze thay wille proceid and decern him to be excommunicat, as said is, according to the

Word of God and disceplein of the kirk, havand the warrant thair of thairin.

At Striviling the xix day of Merche, 1582

Presentes: James Andirson, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Michael Lermont, Mr Andro Grahame, Mr William Stirling, Alexander Fargy, Mr Arthur Futhie, Mr Andro Yung and Patrik Layng, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur of exerceis; William Stirling, William Scott, rederis; Alexander Forester of Garden, Alexander Paterson, notar, and Robert Alexander, elderis.

Patrik Layng: The quhilk day compeirit David Bruce of Lin Miln, parrochinnar of Clakmannan, quha being desyrit be the moderatour to declair the trewth anent Patrik Layng gif he usit his offeice in the kirk sufficientlie and gif he was upricht in his lyf and conversatioun nor nocht, the said David ansorit that he was nocht swa upricht in his offeice as became him becaus he knew him to have baptezit bairnis gottin in adultrie and fornicatioun, sum of thame alsweill borne in uthir parrochunis as in his awin parrochun of Clakmannan, the parentis quhair of nocht havand satisfieit the kirk, and ane ressavar of mony for baptezin of thame, and for compleiting of mariage. As tuiching his lyf and conversatioun, the said David knew na thing thairin bot honestie. Off the quhilkis offencis the said Patrik being accusit in generall and in speciall as eftir follws, he ansorit as heireftir is mentionat. First, being accusit for baptesin of bairnis gottin in adultrie thair parentis nocht satisfieing the kirk, the said Patrik denyit the samin *simpliciter*. Secundlie, being accusit for baptesin of bairnis gottin in fornicatioun within his awin parrochun of Clakmannan, the parentis of thame nocht satisfieing the kirk, and ressavit silver thairfoir and swa sellit the sacrament unlauchfullie, the said Patrik denyit that he baptezit ony sic bairnis bot sic as thair parentis ather made repentence or ellis fand cautioun to mak repentence and swa in respect of cautioun fund be sum personis, and be command of the elderis, he baptezit thair bairnis, and na uthirwayis, and denyis that he ressavit ony mony thairfoir. Thridlie, being accusit gif he baptezit ane bairne gottin in fornicatioun be Archibald Bruce of Kennet on [blank] Baxter, quha than dwelt with the said Archibald, the mane nocht havand satisfieit the kirk thairfoir, the said Patrik confessit the

baptezin of the same bairne and that the father thair of nathir made repentence thairfoir nor yit presentit his said bairne to baptism bot allegit the mothur thair of made repentence for the samin. Fourtlie, being accusit gif he baptezit ony bairnis gottin furth of his awin parrochun and, in speciall, bairnis of the parrochun of Airthe and gif he ressavit ony silver thairfoir, the said Patrik confessit that he baptezit bairnis lauchfullie gottin of the parrochun of Airthe bot denyit the ressett of ony silvir thairfoir, and denyit that he baptezit ony bairnis of that parrochun nor of ony uthir parrochun nor his awin gottin in adultrie nor fornicatioun. Fy[f]tlie, being accusit for baptezin of ane bairne in the kirk of Allvay gottin in fornicatioun be Mr James Erskein on [blank] Mwbray, dochtir of the laird of Barnbwgall, the said Patrik confessit the same and that nather the fathir nor the mothur made repentence thairfoir bot allegit the said Mr James fand cautioun to satisfie the kirk thairfoir and confessit that the said bairne was borne in Litill Sawchie within the parrochun of S. Niniane. Sextlie, being accusit for taking of silvir for making of mariagis, the said Patrik denyit the samin *simpliciter*. The brethrein admittis the hail accusatiounis foirsaidis denyit be the said Patrik to the said David Bruce probatioun and assignis thairto the xxvj day of Merche instant, the said Patrik warnit thairto *apud acta*.

William Stirling: In the terme assignit be the brethrein to pronounce thair jugementis anent the accusatiounis layit againis William Stirling and his answeris made thairto, the said William compeirand personallie, the moderator requyrit him to declair the trewth the gif he knew that Jonet Crystesone was divorcit fra Andro Wilsone, sumtyme hir husband, for adultrie committit be hir befor he mareit hir with William Michell in Coustrie or nocht, the said William Stirling confessit that befor he mareit hir on the said William Michell he knew hir to be divorcit fra hir first husband for adultrie committit be hir, bot inrespect of the testimoniall he ressavit of the proclamatioun of thair bannis beand that na impediment was opponit in the contrar and that thai hade nocht ane minister in thair awin kirk as befor he allegit thairfoir, he mareit the said Jonet Crystesone on the said William Michell, as said is.

William Stirling, suspendit: The brethrein, having considerit the accusatiounis layit againis William Stirling, reder, and his answeris made thairin, continewis thair jugementis thairintill quhill thai be



farther advysit thairwithe, bot presentlie thinkis the said William worthie to be suspendit and suspendis him from all functioun in the kirk of God and exerceis of ony part of the ministrie thairof to the ix day of Apryll nixt tocum.

Mr Andro Grahame: The quhilk day ane summondis beand productit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone James Blakwod, William Wricht and Robert Drummond, messenger in Dunblane, chairgeing thame to compeir the said day to beir lell and suithfast witnessing tuiching the rentall of the bischoprik of Dunblane insafar as thai knaw or salbe speirit at thame, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis, compeirit Mr Andro Grahame, bischop thairof, and the saidis James Blakwod and William Wricht, witnessis foirsaid, quha was ressavit, sworne and admittit, the said Robert Drummond being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. Thairfor the brethrein ordanis him to be summond of new to the xxvj day of Merche instant to the effect foirsaid under the paine of excommunication, the said Mr Andro Grahame warnit thairto *apud acta*.

Buikis of discipline productit: The same day Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Arthur Futhie, Mr William Stirling and Alexander Fargy, ministeris, productit thair buikis of disceplein to be veseit and considerit be the brethrein. The brethir appointtis the moderatour and remanent brethrein of Striviling to vesie the saidis buikis and report thair jugementis to the nixt session.

At Striviling the xxvj day of Merche, 1583

Presentes: James Andirson, Mr Arthur Futhie, Johne Duncanson, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Johnne Campbell, Mr Andro Grahame, Alexander Fargy, Robert Mentayth, Mr Andro Yung, Michael Lermonthe, Mr Alexander Chisholme and Patrik Layng, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur of exerceis; Mr James Pont, Umphra Cunynghame, Robert Alexander, William Norwallis, elderis in the presbytery of Striviling, and Mr Johnne Stewart.

The quhilk day the moderatour made intimatioun to the brethrein that the provinciall assemblie of this province is to be haldin in Edinburgh on the secund day of Aprill nixt, thairfor admonesis the haill brethrein within the boundis of this presbytery to be present thair the said day, and that ilk minister warne the reder nixt to him

to be present thair lykwys, and that ilk minister warne the adulteraris within his parrochun to compeir thair the said day to ressave thair injunctionis, undir the paine of excommunicatioun, and that Patrik Gillaspie warne William Wingzet, fornicatour with Jonet Johnesone, the fourth tyme, to compeir thair the said day to ressave his injunctionis for the said fault, undir the paine conteinit in the last act made thairanent.

Jonet Johneson: The samin day compeirit Jonet Johnesone and grantis fornicatioun with William Wingzet and that as for the foirt fault, quha is ordeinit and commandit to compeir befor the provinciall assemblie of this province to be haldin in Edinburgh the second day of Aprill nixt tocum thair to ressave injunctionis to be injonit to hir for the said fault under the paine of excommunicatioun. It is thocht gude and ordeinit be the brethrein that thay sall teiche in the exerceis forward fra the text this day teichit to the end of the epistillis of S. Paull.

Mr Johnne Campbell: The quhilk day compeirit Mr Johnne Campbell, bishop of Iyllis, and producit twa edictis dewlie execute and indorsit be the quhilkis intimatioun was made at the parroche kirkis of Eclmekill and Ardchattan of the commissioun gevin to the brethrein be act of the generall assemblie to summond and call befor thame the said Mr Johnne and to accuse him of the offensicis conteinit in the said act, all or part, as he is giltie and all personis that hes to object or say againis the said Maister Johnne in the heddis conteinit in the said act and mentionat in the said edictis or ony of thame [that] was lauchfullie summond in the saidis kirkis to haif compeirit befor the brethrein the said day to declair quhat thay hade to oppone againis him quhair ecclesiasticall disceplein sould have bein ministrat according to the Word of God, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the saidis edictis and executionis producit thairupone and albeit that publiclie all personis that hade to object or say againis the said Mr Johnne in the heddis foirsaidis, was callit to compeir befor the brethrein instantlie and lauchfull tyme of day biddin, yit nane compeirit nor objectit againis him, and thairfor the moderator, in name of the brethrein, entirit with the said Mr Johnne in tryell of the heddis follwing. First, the said Mr Johnne beand inquyrit gif he hade delyverit to Mr Neill Campbell the copy of the act of the generall assemblie contenand the brethreinis pwar for

trying of the said Mr Johnne, with ane edict direct be thame thairanent and ane wretting direct to him for ressavit of the samin and quhat answer he hade ressavit thair of, the said Mr Johnne answerit he delyverit the samin wrettis to the said Mr Neill, quha ansorit to him that he wald send his answer in wrett to the brethrein of this presbytery in dew and convenient tyme and thairfor he ressavit na uthir answer nathir be word nor wret. Secundlie, the said Mr Johnne being requyrit to declair gif he ressavit the bischoprik of the Iyllis and the abbacie of Ecolmekill conjunct or nocht and gif thai remane presentlie in his handis as he ressavit thame or nocht, the said Mr Johnne answerit and confessit that he ressavit the said bischoprik and abbacie conjunct togethir the tyme of his entres thairto, lyk as Mr Johnne Carswall his predicessur hade thame of befoir conjunct, bot grantis that sensyne he hes made resignatioun of the said abbacie in the kingis gravis handis in favoris of his sone Mr Alexander Campbell and swa hes denudit his handis thair of. Farder, beand inquiryrit gif thair was ony pactioun and conditioun made betuix him and his sone anent the said abbacie at the tyme of the said resignatioun the said Mr Johnne denyit that thair was ony pactioun and conditioun betuix thame anent the samin. Thridlie, beand requyrit gif he hade sett in few or be takkis ony of the leving addettit to the bischoprik of Iyllis and abbacie of Ycolmekill sen his entrie thairto or nocht, the said Mr Johnne denyis that he hes sett ony thing thair of sen his entrie nather be few nor tak excep only that he hes confermit ane few of new, sett be Mr Johnne Carswall, his predicessur, to my lord Erle of Argyll of the landis of Skirhingzie in Kintyr. Fourtlie, beand inquiryrit gif he hes ressavit ony few or tak of ony part of the said abbacie of Ecolmekill of Mr Alexander Campbell, his sone, sen his dimissioun of the samin in his favoris or in favoris of ony of his freindis or nocht, the said Mr Johnne answerit that he hes nocht ressavit na part of the said abbacie of his said sone nather be few nor takis sen his dimissioun of the sam in his favoris nor nane of his freindis. Fyftlie, the said Mr Johnne beand inquiryrit gif the fyve iyllis of Barra be as yit fre unset or nocht, the said Mr Johnne ansorit that thai ar fre, unset athir in few or be tak nather be him nor his predicessur.

The said Mr Johnne Campbell is admonesit nocht to styll him self bischop, nor lord, in tymis cuming, nather be word nor wrett, according to the ordinance of the generall assemble. The brethrein

continewis thair jugementis anent the accusationis layit againis the said Mr Johnne to the xvj day of Aprill nixt, the said Mr Johnne warnit thairto *apud acta*, with certificatioun and he failze, the brethrein will pronounce according to the Word of God and disceplein of the kirk, and als summondis the said Mr Johnne to compeir befor the nixt generall assemblie of the kirk to be haldin in Edinburgh, the xxiiij day of Aprill nixtocum, the secund day of the said assemblie, viz., the xxv day of the said moneth of Aprill to heir and se the brethrein report to the said assemblie of thair obedience to the commissioun of the generall assemblie gevin to thame anentis him and sic uthir thingis as thai have fund concerning him togethir with the said assembleis determinatioun thairanent undir the paine of disobedience.

Robert Drummond, witnes: The quhilk day beand productit ane summondis dewlie execute and indorcit upone Robert Drummond, messinger, chairgeing him to compeir the said day to beir lell and suithfast witnessing tuiching the rentall of the bischoprik of Dunblane insafar as he knawis or salbe speirit at him undir the paine of excommunicatioun (Mr Andro Grahame, bischop thair of, beand personallie present), compeirit the said Robert Drummond quha was ressavit, sworne and admittit, and examinat thairupone as the depositionis beris.

Anent Mr Andro Grahame: The brethrein, being advysit with the depositionis of the witnessis summond for preving of the just rentall of the bischoprik of Dunblane, findis that sufficient tryell of the said rentall can nocht be guidlie hed of witnessis nathir yit can it be weill varefeit quhat parttis of the leving addettit to the said bischoprik ar set in few or be takis be the said Mr Andro Grahame, bischop thair of, sen his entrie thairto or quhat yit remainis in the bischopis handis unsett unles the register of his fewis and settis be productit. Thairfor the brethrein ordanis the said Mr Andro to produce his buikis of register of the haill fewis and settis of the leving of the said bischoprik sett be him sen his entrie thairto befor thame on the xvj day of Aprill nixt to the effect foirsaid and that James Blakwod in Dunblane, kepar of the register buikis of the auld fewis and takis sett of the said bischoprik befor the said Mr Androis entrie thairto, be summond to compeir the said day and to bring with him and produce the saidis register buikis contening the haill auld fewis and

takis foirsaidis to the same effect foirsaid undir the paine of disobedience.

Mr Andro Grahame: The samin day the said Mr Andro Grahame beand accusit gif he hade teichit or ministrat the sacramentis in his awin kirk of Dunblane at ony tyme sen the xix day of Fabruar last to this present or nocht, the said Mr Andro answerit that he was swa occupyit with making answer to the act of the generall assemblie to the brethrein that he could have na tyme to studie and thairfor confessit he hade teichit nane nor yit the [*sic*] ministrat the sacramentis sensyne bot promesis to amend in tymis cuming.

Anent thingis to be registrat in the buikis of disceplein: The quhilk day it is statute and ordeinit that ilk minister caus register in buikis, ane or ma, all mariagis made be him, all bairnis baptezit be him, all personis that deis within the parrochun, and the almus collectit for the puiis at the kirk duir, with the distributioun thairfor, and suirey keipit.

The buikis of disceplein salbe product: The same day it is ordeinit that ilk minister produce his buik of disceplein with the register of the foirsaidis befor the brethrein of the presbytery at twa sindrie tymes in the yeir, viz., on the secund Twysdayis of Merche and September to be veseit and considerit be thame and delyverit againe to the minister, keipar thairfor.

Buikis off disceplein: The quhilk day the buikis of disceplein of the parrochunis of S. Ninianis kirk, Airthie, Logy and Abirfoull was veseit and admittit and delyverit againe to the ministeris of the said parrochunis.

Upone the ij day of Aprill the brethrein was absent at the synnodall assemblie of this province and thairfor na thing was done.

At Striviling the ix day of Aprill, 1583

Presentes: James Andirson, Johnne Duncansone, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Mr William Stirling, Mr Arthur Futhie, Robert Mentayth, Mr Andro Yung, Michael Lermont, Alexander Fargy, ministeris; Alexander Forester off Garden, Mr James Pont, Duncane Narne, Umphra Cunynghame, elderis; and Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur off exerceis.

Commissionaris to the nixt generall assemblie: The quhilk day the brethrein of the presbytery of Striviling electit and nominat James Andirson, Patrik Gillaspie, and Johnne Duncanson, ministeris; Sir James Stirling off Keir, knycht and provest of Stirling, and Alexander Forester of Garden, barronis; commissionaris for thame to pas to the nixt generall assemblie of the kirk to be haldin in Edinburgh the xxiiij day of Aprill instant with full powar to concur with the said assemblie for treatting of thais thingis concerning the weill and gude ordur to be observit within the kirkis of the said presbytery and als quhatsumevir thingis that salbe trettit in the said assemblie that may tend to the glorie of God and weill of his hail kirk plantit of his mercie within this realme.

Adulteraris: The quhilk day the brethrein ordanis that all adulteraris that hes past to the synnodall assemblie be warnit to compeir befor the brethrein the nixt sessioun to heir and se the injunctionis of the synnodall assemblie injoinit to thame for thair offensic be exponit and declairit to everie ane of thame, in speciall, to the effect thai pretend na ignorance. The brethrein ordanis ilk minister within the boundis of this presbytery to proceid with the censuris of the kirk againis all adulteraris disobedient within the boundis that hes nocht past to the said synnodall assemblie of this presbytery as thai war ordeinit, ilk minister for his awin part respective, as thai will answer before the brethrein of this presbytery.

William Stirling suspendit: The brethrein, undirstanding William Stirling, reder, to be suspendit to this day fra all functioun in the kirk in consideratioun of certane accusatiounis layit againis the said William, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in ane act made thairon of befor, continewis thair jugementis as yit quhill thai be farther advysit anent the accusatiounis layit againis him, bot presentlie suspendis him of new fra all functioun in the kirk of God and exerceis of ony part of the ministrie thairof to the vij day of Merche nixt.

Johnne Wilsone: The quhilk day compeirit Johnne Wilsone in Polmais and grantis him to have gottin ane bairne in fornicatioun withe Agnes Mentayth and grantis lykwys that he committit adultrie with Agnes Broun by his wyf, Elezabeth Bennet, for the quhilk adultrie he confessis that he hes satisfeit the kirk. The brethrein, being advysit with the said Johnnis oft falling in huredom, first

in adultrie and now fornicatioun, decernis and ordeinis him to mak publict repentence at the publict plaice appointit for penitentis within his awin parroche kirk of Sanct Niniane sex sindrie Sondagis in tyme of sermonde, beginnand on the nixt Sondag the xiiij day of Aprill nixt, undir the paine of disobedience.

Commissioun to vesy the kirk off Muthill: The brethrein ordanis and gevis commissioun to Mr Andro Yung, Mr William Stirling and Michael Lermonthe, ministeris, to pas to the parroche kirk of Muthill betwix and the first Twysday of Junij nixt and vesie the samin *pro re nata* and tak inquisitioun and tryell of sic thingis in that parrochun as concerns the glorie of God and weill of his kirk and farther to travell with the congregatioun thair of and desyr thame to provyd a sufficient dwelling for Mr Alexander Chisholme, thair minister, with certificatioun gif thai failze thair wilbe libertie gevin to the said Mr Alexander to pas to ane uthir kirk, and quhat the saidis ministeris findis be thair said visitatioun to report to the brethrein heir on the said first Twysday of Junij.

Questionis proponit to the synnodall assemblie: The quhilk day James Andirson, moderatour, reportit to the brethrein certane questionis gevin to him in wret to be proponit to the last synnodall assemblie to desyr the jugementis of the brethrein of the said assemblie and resolutioun to everie ane of thame, quhilk questionis and answeris made thairto he producit befor the brethrein, quhair of the tennour follwis. *Questio*: Ane certane mane and ane woman makis mutuall promeis of mariage in presens of the reder of the kirk be word and in presens of bayth thair freindis conveynit for that purpois on the nycht of auld callit fasternisevin eftir supper xij yeir syne or thairby and promesit to solemneiz the same befor the kirk on law Sondag nixt thaireftir, and immediatlie eftir the foirsaid promeis thay hade carnall dell and cohabitatioun the speace of ij or iij yeiris without ony solemnizatioun of the band. Thaireftir the foirsaid mane lavis the said woman and adjonis him self unto ane uthir woman be carnall dell and cohabitatioun with the quhilk secund he wald solemneiz mariage, the first woman refusand to persew the said mane for his first promeis made to hir. *Queritur*: Gif, eftir the said mane hes satisfet the kirk for the carnall dell with bayth the said women (nocht beand mareit, as said is), quhethir gif he may lauchfullie marie the secund woman; gif nocht, gif he and the first woman

salbe compellit to compleit amd solemneiz mariage according to thair first promeis.

Thir questionis was all answerit on the iiij day of Aprill, 1583: 40 Aprilis 1583, Respondetur: The secund mariage stayis and urge for adherence of the first.

Anent mariage: Questio: Ane woman committis incest and satisfeis the kirk thairfoir be externall forme of repentence. *Queritur:* Gif the said woman may be marcit with ane uther mane or nocht. *Respondetur:* Affirmative.

Adherence: Questio: ane certane man and his wyf committis, ather of thame, adultrie by uthir and pass sindrie without ony durors lauchfullie led. *Queritur:* gif the kirk may compell thame to adheir togethir or nocht. *Respondetur:* affirmative *propter recompensatione.*

Injunctionis to ane fornicatour eftir he hes committit adultrie: Questio: Ane certane mane committis adultrie and satisfeis the kirk thairfoir, thaireftir his wyf being ded he fallis in fornicatioun. *Queritur:* Quhat forme of repentence he sall mak quhethir as ane simple fornicatour or as relaps in fornicatioun. *Respondetur:* Relaps it is, and vj dayis repentence is the ordur.

Malitiosa disertione: Questio: ane certane woman laves hir husband *malitiosa desertione* thrw the quhilk hir husband fallis in adultrie and thaireftir ar reconceillit. *Queritur:* Gif ony disciplein salbe usit againis hir inrespect of the reconciliatioun. *Respondetur:* We think les nor the sclandir be all the greter sen reconciliatioun follwis it aucht to be bureit.

Anent mariage: Questio: Thair is a certane mane and a woman marcit, the mane committis adultrie and thaireftir passis out of the realme, the woman conteinis hir self without fault the space of ix or x yeiris thaireftir, and then fallis in adultrie in lyk manir, na divorcement beand led, now his husband is ded. *Queritur:* Gif it be lesum to marie the said woman now with ane mane or nocht. *Respondetur:* Affirmative (the ordur of the kirk being observit).

Anent dilapidatioun: Questio: Ane beneficite persone berand offeice in the functioun of the kirk settis victuell of his benefeice as maill and beir sum for viij s. the boll, sum for xij s. iiij d. the boll, etc. Item, settis, pultrie, arrage, carrag of pettis and fewall for small pricis of silvir far within the availl that hes bein in our dayis. Item, landis sett of befoir *decimis non inclusis* now sett in few *decimis inclusis* for

viiij s. the boll teind. *Queritur*: Gif this be dilapidatioun of the patrimony of the kirk or nocht. *Respondetur*: Affirmative and that the actis of the generall assemblie sould be execut upone him.

Anent dilapidatioun: *Questio*: Ane beneficit persone rassavis ane bischoprie and ane abbacie as ane benefeice unit the tyme of his predicessur and in his awin persone, and thaireftir disjonis the said abbacie fra the bischoprik in favoris of ane certane speciall freind. *Queritur*: Gif this be dilapidatioun of the patrimony of the kirk or nocht. *Respondetur*: We undirstand nocht the questioun nor the manir of the disjoning and thairfor thinkis the personis ye mein of wald be warnit to the generall assemblie, thair to be tryit upone this hed.

Anent buriall: *Questio*: Seing the inner kirk of Dunblane, of auld callit the queir, servis presentlie for preiching of the Word and administratioun of the sacramentis. *Queritur*: Gif the assemblie of Dunblane may suffir sic personis to be bureit in the uttir kirk as will contribute to the reparatioun of the same, and gif thai may mak ane act thairanent. *Respondetur*: This is perilous and thairfoir thocht it not meit to be done. *Queritur*: Quhat ordur sould be takin with ministeris and redaris that ar of na presbyterie. *Respondetur*: To the nixt presbyterie quhill farther ordur be tane.

Mercattis dischairgit on Sondagis: The quhilk day the moderatour made intimatioun to the brethrein that be act of this last synnodall assemblie all marcattis ar dischairgit to be haldin within the boundis of the synnodall upone Sondagis under the painis thairin conteinit, and that be the same act ilk minister is commandit to proceid againis the contravenaris thairof (beand his awin parrochinnaris) with the censuris of the kirk according thairto.

At Striviling the xvj day of Aprill, 1583

Presentes: James Andirson, Mr Andro Grahame, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Mr Arthur Futhie, Mr Andro Yung, Mr William Stiriling, Alexander Fargy, Patrik Layng, Mr Johnne Campbell, Johnne Duncansone, ministeris; Mr James Pont, Umphra Cunynghame and Robert Alexander, elderis; Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur of the exerceis.

Mr Andro Graham: The quhilk day Mr Andro Grahame beand

desyrit be the moderatour to produce his register buikis of the haill fewis and takis sett be him of the bischoprik of Dunblane sen his enteres thairto according to ane ordinance made be the brethrein on the xxvj day of Merche last bypast, the said Mr Andro answerit and confessit that he hes the register of sum thingis sett be him bot nocht all and in speciall confessis that he hes nocht the fewis and takis sett to my lord Grahame, the Maistir of Mar, nor the Maistir of Levingstoun registrat, bot hoppis to get the copeis of the charturis and takis that he wantis onregistrat, at the lest the substantiall pointis of thame quhen he plesis to requyr for thame and thairfor, seing he hes nocht the register of all presentlie in his handis, desyris the brethrein to appoint him ane convenient day againe the quhilk he sall use diligence to get the register of the haill and produce the samin befor thame according to thair desyr. The brethrein undirstanding that thai have na farther commissioun to try the said Mr Andro Grahame bot to the nixt generall assemblie of the kirk and that thai have na sessioun day ordinar betuix and thane to appoint to the said Mr Andro for satisfeing of his desyr, thairfor ordanis him to use sufficient diligence betuix and the nixt generall assemblie and produce befor the brethrein thairfor on the xxv day of Aprill instant ane auctentik register of the haill fewis and takis sett be him of the fruitis of the said bischoprik sen his enteres thairto to be sein and considerit be the brethrein of the said assemblie and in speciall the fewis and takis sett to my lord Grahame, the Maistir of Mar and Maistir of Levingstoun and to heir and se thair jugementis pronuncit concerning the haill thingis deducit in proces befor us againis him and summondis the said Mr Andro thairto *apud acta* undir the paine of disobedience. The same day, the said Mr Andro Grahame being askit gif he hes teichit or ministrat the sacramentis as yit at ony tyme sen his hame cuming in his awin kirk of Dunblane, the said Mr Andro answerit that he teichit on Sondag last befor none in his said kirk, bot nocht at na uthir tyme sensyne for the causis schawin be him to the brethrein of befor. The brethrein thinkis gude and ordeinis that the haill proces deducit befor thame againis Mr Andro Grahame concerning his tryell, according to the act of the generall assemblie, be extractit and producit befor the nixt generall assemblie be the moderator to be haldin in Edinburgh on the xxv day of Aprill instant. The brethrein thinkis gude that the moderatour report be

word to the nixt generall assemblie the proces deducit befor thame concerning the tryell of Mr Johnne Campbell, bishcop of Iyllis, according to the act of the generall assemblie.

Mr Johnne Campbell: The quhilk day being assignit to the brethrein to pronunce thair jugementis anent the accusatiounis layit againis Mr Johnne Campbell, bishcop of Iyllis, the said Mr Johnne beand personallie present the brethrein, yit as of befor, continewis thair jugementis thairin to the first Twysday eftir Sanct Lowrence day, viz., the xiiij day of August nixt, the said Mr Johnne warnit thairto *apud acta* with certificatioun and he failze the brethrein will pronunce according to the Word of God and disceplein of the kirk. The said Mr Johnne promesis keip the said day and compeir befor the brethrein, according to thair ordinance in all pointis.

Issobell Boyd: The quhilk day it was declairit to the brethrein be James Andirson, minister at Striviling, that quhair ane woman in this toun callit Issobell Boyd, beand suspectit for adultrie, was summond to have compeirit befor the sessioun of the kirk of Striviling for tryell of the samin, hes fled furth of this toun for eschwein of disceplein and thairfor desyris the brethrein to tak sic ordur that the said Issobell may sustein disceplein, it is ordeinit that ilk minister tak privie inquisitioun in ilk ane of thair sessiounis for the said Issobell, and also to inquyr for hir publictlie in pulpet laving adoptioun to the minister to use ony of the twa first as he plesis, and quhow son tryell be hade of hir to reveill it to the brethrein and expell hir furth of thair congregatioun.

Margaret McQuhirry: The quhilk day compeirit Margaret McQuhirry in Airthe, unmareit, and grantis hir to have borne ane bairne gottin in adultrie on hir be Alexander Robertsons thair, mareit, and submittis hir in the will of the kirk.

Margaret Stewart: The samin day compeirit Margaret Stewart in Airthe, unmareit, and grantis hir to have borne ane bairne gottin in adultrie on hir be James Smyth, mareit, and submittis hir in the will of the kirk thairfoir.

David Burne: The samin day compeirit David Burne in Clakmannan with Margaret Yung and grantis him to have gottin ane bairne in adultery by his wyf on Agnes Alexander in Allway for the quhilk he submittis him in the will of the kirk.

The xxiiij and last dayis of Aprill the brethrein was absent at the generall assembleie and thairfor thair was na thing done.

At Striviling the vij day of May, 1583

Presentes: James Andirson, moderatour, Mr Andro Grahame, Mr Arthur Futhie, Mr William Stirling, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Robert Mentayth, Mr Andro Yung, Johnne Duncanson, Alexander Fargy, Michael Lermonthe, Patrik Layng, Andro Forester, ministeris; William Scott, William Stirling, rederis; Mr James Pont, Robert Alexander, Umphra Cunynghame, elderis; and Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur off exerceis.

Moderatour chosin: The quhilk day Mr William Stirling, minister at the kirk off Abirfoull, be voit of the brethrein was chosin moderatour in this presbytery to the nixt provinciall assembleie.

Anent making off actis: The quhilk day it was intimat to the brethrein that be ane act in the last generall assembleie, it is statute and ordeinit that na sessioun of na particular kirk, na presbyteriis, nor synnodall assembleis mak actis [*two thirds of the line blank*] that ar nocht grundit on actis alreddy made or to be made in the generall assembly, at the lest not put in executioun quhill thay be first presentit to the generall assembly and thair ratefeit and approvit, and thairfor the haille brethrein is admonesit to obey the said act.

Punesing off excommunicantis: The samin day it was intimat to the brethrein that the kingis majestie hes promesit to the kirk to puneis all excommunicat personis civille according to the lawis (thair particular naimis beand gevin up) and thairfor it is ordeinit be the generall assembleie that ilk presbytery gif up the naimis of all excommunicat personis within thair boundis, for the quhilk caus it is ordeinit that ilk minister gif up the naimis of all excommunicantis that he knowis to the presbytery to the effect foirsaid.

Kirkis in Strathern adjonit: The samin day it was intimat to the brethrein that be act of the last generall assembleie thair is iiij parroche kirkis in Strathern adjonit to this presbytery, viz., Muthill, Strwen, Stragayth and Tillechettill.

William Stirling: The quhilk day the brethrein, being advysit with the accusationis layit againis William Stirling, reder, and his answeris made thairto, undirstandis him to be penitent for his offensis as ane

wretein subscryvit with his hand at lynthe beris. Thairfor the brethrein ordanis the said William Stirling to mak publict repentence on Sonday the xij of this instant in the parroche kirk off Kincardin in the tyme of sermond at the plaice appointit for penitenttis for his offencis and sclandering of the kirk thairby in the said parrochun, and that Michael Lermonthe, minister, ressave the same repentence, and als ordanis the said William to mak publict repentence in the parroche kirk of Kippen on ane Sonday betuix and the xxiiij day of Junij nixt for his offencis and sclandering of the kirk thairby in the said parrochun, and that Patrik Gillaspie, minister, pas to the said kirk and ressave his repentence. The brethrein, inrespect of his penitencie, continewis the said William Stirling in reidein in the kirk, marein of personis and ministratioun of baptisme to the nixt generall assemblie.

Breking of the Sabbothe day: The brethrein, undirstandand that on Sonday last thair was ane drum strukin in the brugh of Stirling be ane certane of servand men and boyis, and May playis usit quhairby the Sabbothe day was prophainit and the kirk sclanderit, thairfor the brethrein ordanis the minister of Stirling to command the bailleis of the toun in name of the kirk to tak ordur with the saidis personis, prophanairis of the Sabboth day and puneis thame in exampill of utheris and nocht to suffir the lyk in tymis cuming undir the paine of the censuris of the kirk to be execute againis thame.

Patrik Layng: The quhilk day the brethrein undirstandand that forsomekill as anent certane accusatiounis layit againis Patrik Layng, of the quhilkis the said Patrik denyit the maist part quhilkis was assignit probatione as actis maid thairupone beris of the det the xix day of Merche last bypast, nochttheless the said Patrik sensyne, oft and dyvers tymis, hes promesit to produce in wret befor the brethrein his confessioun of the haille trewth of the heddis quhairof he was accusit and lykwys of all uthiris quhairof he thinkis him self worthie to be accusit and insafar as it salbe fund that he hes offendit againis the actis of the kirk submittis him self to the brethreinis will thairanent, quhilk as yit the said Patrik hes nocht done, thairfor the brethrein ordanis and commandis the said Patrik Layng (beand personallie present) to produce in wret befor the brethrein on the xxj day of May instant his confessioun of the trewth of his saidis accusatiounis and utheris befor specefeit undir the paine of disobedience.

Adulteraris in Tullicultrie: The quhilk day Robert Mentayth, minister at the kirk of Alvayth, reportit to the brethrein that he hade lauchfullie admonesit sindrie tymis William Wat and Jonet Dugy, incestus adulteraris, in Tullicultrie to obey and satisfie the kirk for thair proud contemp againis the samin as his said admonitionis put in wret at mair lynthe beris, and that according to the commone ordur tane be the kirk and the brether command gevin to him thairanent, and as yit na obedience is offirit be thame, and thairfor inquiryt gif he sall pronounce the sentence of excommunicatioun againis thame conform to the decreit pronuncit be the brether thairanent. The brethrein commandis and ordanis him to pronounce the sentence againis the saidis personis according to thair decreit in all pointis inrespect of thair malicius and obstinat disobedience.

Adulteraris in Clakmannan: The brethir undirstanding that forsameikill as upone the xvij day of Aprill, the yeir of God im vc lxxxij yeiris James Tailyour, Jonet Aickein, Johnne Seath and Jonet Wallace, adulteraris, within the parrochun of Clakmannan was decernit be thame to be excommunicat for thair contemp and disobedience to the voice of the kirk, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in thair said decreit of the det fairsaid, nochtwithstanding the brethrein understanding na executioun to have follwit as yit on thair said decreit, thairfor commandis and ordanis Patrik Layng, minister at Clakmannan, to admoneis the saidis personis and ilk ane of thame publictly in pulpet four sindrie Sondagis according to the commone ordur to obey the voice of the kirk undir the paine of the sentence of excommunicatioun to be pronuncit againis thame, and the said Patrik to report the forme of his admonitiounis in wret to be considerit by the brethrein on the iiij day of *Junij* nixt.

Chrystis woll: The brethrein undirstandand ane gret abuse usit be the rascall sort of pepill that passis in pilgrimage to Chrystis woll and usis gret idolatrie or superstitioun thairat expres againis Godis law and becaus the kingis majestie with avys of his thre estaittis of parliament hes statut be act of parliament certane puneishmentis alsweill corporall painis as pecuniall sowmis of mony to be execute againis sic personis, and for executioun of the quhilkis againis personis passand to the said woll, the brethrein undirstandis my lord of Doun, stewart of Mentayth, hes commissioun gevin to him to that effect, nochttheles seing puneishment is nocht execute

conform to the said act, thairfor the brethir ordanis and gevis commissioun to Mr Andro Yung, Mr William Stirling and Michael Lermonthe to pas to my lord of Doun to treat with him for executioun of punction aganis the personis passaris thairto according to the said act and his commissioun.

At Striviling the xiiij day of May, 1583

Presentes: Mr Williame Stirling, moderatour, James Andirsone, Mr Andro Grahame, Mr Andro Yung, Alexander Fargy, Robert Mentyathe, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Arthur Futhie, Michael Lermonthe and Andro Forester, ministeris; Mr James Pont, Umphra Cunynghame and Robert Alexander, elderis; and Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur of exerceis.

Chrystis woll: The brethrein ordanis and gevis commissioun to the brether indwellaris in Dunblane or ony thrie of thame to pas to Chrystill [*sic*] woll this nixt Setterday at evin, accompanyit with sic personis as thai may have to espy quhat personis cumis to the said woll and report the naimis of sic personis as thai may gait to the brethrein.

Robert Mentayth, minister at Alvayth, producit his buik of disceplein to be veseit be the brethrein.

Robert Fogo decernit to be excommunicat: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Robert Fogo in Doun chairgeing him to have compeirit the said day to heir and se him self decernit to be excommunicat for his contemp and disobedience as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the summondis producit thairupone, quhilk Robert being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, and the brethrein having diligentlie wyit and deiplye considderit his gret obstinacie and manifest contemp of the lauchfull chairgis of the kirk ordanis and decernis the said Robert Fogo to be excommunicat and cuttit off fra the societie of Chrystis kirk and to be delyverit into the handis of the devill for destructioun of his flesche that his saull may be saif in the day of the Lord Jesus, and commandis Michael Lermonthe, minister at Kilmadok, to pronounce the sentence of excommunicatioun aganis him conform to this decreit, lauchfull admonitiounis to be gevin be the said Michell passand befor.

Mairtein Sawyer: Anent the tryell gif Mairtein Sawyer, parrochinnar in Alvayth, be excommunicat or nocht, seeing the minister that is allegit to have pronuncit the sentence is departit furth of this lyf, thairfor ordanis Michael Lermonthe, scryb to the bischop of Dunblane, visitur of the said kirk and kepar of the buik of actis made the tymis of the said bischopis visitatioun to vesie ovir the same buik, and gif he find ony actis thairin makand mentiou of the said Mairteinis excommunicatioun that he extract thame and produce thame befor the brethir, and als ordanis Robert Mentayth to tak diligent tryell thairanent amangis the elderis and deacunis of his awin kirk of Alvayth, and quhat he findis thairby to report the samin to the brethir.

William Harvy: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone William Harvy in Both-kenner, chairgeing him to compeir the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for adultrie committit be him, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the summondis producit thairupone, compeirit the said William Harvy and confessis that he was mareit withe [*blank*] quha hes nocht aneirit [*recte*, adheirit] to him the speace of xx yeir past and mair, and als that it is four yeir and mair sen he saw hir last and confessis he hes begottin twa bairnis by his said wyf with Marione Yung, the ane befor he saw hir last, and the uthir sensyne, and that he is credablie informit that his wyf was departit furth of this lyf befor he gat the last bairne, and thairfor allegis his last fault is bot fornicatioun. The brethrein, being advysit with the said Williamis confessioun, findis thai can nocht decern gif the last fault be adultrie or nocht quhill thay have sufficient tryell quethir his wyf was thane alyve or nocht or quhen scho deit, and thairfor ordanis the said William with all possablie diligence to act cautioun in the commissaris buikis of Striviling that he sall satisfie the kirk for the saidis offencis as he salbe commandit, and separat the said Marione Yung fra him with diligence and nocht ressave hir againe in hous with him under the paine of xx libis.

At Striviling the xxj day of May, 1583

Presentes: James Andirson, Mr Andro Yung, Robert Mentayth, Mr Andro Grahame, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Patrik Gillaspie,

Michael Lermonthe and Alexander Fargy, ministeris; Mr James Pont, Umphra Cunynghame, elderis; and Mr Alexander Iule, brothur off exerceis.

The quhilk day Mr Alexander Chisholme producit his buik of disceplein to be veseit and considerit be the bretherin.

Robert Fogo: The quhilk day compeirit Robert Fogo in Doun (beand of befor decernit to be excommunicat for disobedience) and offerit him self in the will of the kirk thairfoir, and the said Robert, beand accusit be the moderatour of certane offencis done be him in his offeice as eftir follwis, answerit thairto as heireftir is mentionat. First, being accusit for mareing of personis and ministratioun of the sacrament of baptisme without lauchfull admissioun, the said Robert ansorit that he was admittit be Mr Johnne Row, commissionar in tha parttis for the tyme, be word to bapteis bairnis lauchfullie gottin, quhilk Alexander Fargy, minister, testefeit, and lykwys allegit that he was sensyne admittit be Mr Andro Grahame, visitur, to bapteis bairnis lauchfullie gottin be word, quhilk the said Mr Andro denyit, and being accusit gif he hade ony admissioun to ministrat baptein [*sic*] in wret, answerit that he hade nane bot ane testimoniall of his admissioun be Mr Johnne Row, quhilk he producit, and eftir the samin beand red was fund be the brethrein to containe na admission of the said Robert bot onelie to reid. Secundlie, being accusit for ane sellar of the sacrament of baptisme, in taking of silvir thairfoir, and for mareing, the said Mr Robert denyit the samin *simpliciter*. Thridlie, being accusit for baptezein of ane bairn gottin in adultrie last be William Murray, he nocht satisfieand the kirk thairfoir, the said Robert denyit the samin *simpliciter*. Fourtlie, being accusit for baptezein of ane bairne gottin in fornicatioun be William Gilroy on Merjorie Drummond, parrochinnar in Logy, the kirk nocht be[and] satisfieit for the said fault, the said Robert grantis the samin and submittis him self in the will of the brethrein thairfoir. The brethrein continewis thair jugementis anent his disobedience and accusatiounis layit to him to the iiij day of *Junij* nixt, the said Robert warnit thairto *apud acta*.

Johnne Wod, Johnne Brown: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Johnne Wod and Johnne Broun, schulmaisteris at the kirkis of Muthill and Strogayth, chairgeing thame to compeir the said day to answer at the instance of

the kirk for playing of clark playis on the Sabbath day thairby abusing the samin for ministratioun of baptisme and mariage without lauchfull admissioun as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis, compeirit the said Johnne Wod and being accusit be the moderatour for abusing of the Sabbath day in playing of clark playis thairon, the said Johnne confessit the same and is penitent thairfoir and offeris him self in the will of the kirk thairfoir, quha is ordeinit to mak publict repentence thairfoir in the kirk of Muthill and confes his fault in presens of the congregatioun immediatelie eftir the sermond and ordanis the brethrein of Dunblane to try his habilitie for teiching of ane schulle, and thaireftir to report it to the brethrein. The said Johnne Broun, being oft tymis callit, compeirit nocht. Thairfor ordanis him to be summond of new to the effect foirsaid undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

Excommunicantis in Alwayth: The quhilk day, Robert Mentayth, minister at Alwayth, reportit to the brethir that he, at thair command, hade pronuncit the sentence of excommunicatioun lauchfullie according to the ordur againis William Watt and Jonet Dugy, incestus adulteraris, quha as yit schawis na signis of repentence. The brethrein ordanis him to produce the nixt sessioun the forme of the sentence pronuncit and of the admonitionis he gave befor in wret that the brethrein may advys thairwith.

Sawer and Aitkein pronuncit excommunicat: The samin day, Robert Mentayth, minister, reportit that forsamekill as in the last sessioun he was ordeinit to tak diligent tryell of the elderis and deacunis of the kirk of Alwayth anent Mairtein Sawer, allegit to be excommunicat, according to the quhilk command the said Robert hes upone the xix day of May last bypast examinat the elderis of the said kirk of the ordur of pronounciatioun of the sentence of excommunicatioun againis Mairtein Sawer, *alias* Ayckein, and Bessie Gibsone, adulteraris, quha hes deponit in ane publict sessioun conveynit all in ane voice that the said Mairtein and Bessie was denuncit excommunicat be Alexander Drysdell, reder for the tyme, for thair said offence and malicius, obstinat disobedience to the voice of the kirk the speace of ten yeiris syne or thairby, quhilkis was delatit and gevin up to the bishop of Dunblane, visitur, in his visitatioun, and also deponit that the laird of Cars, barroun of the barrony of Alwayth, made actis in his court that na mane sould hant nor cum in his

cumpany under the paine of unlawis usit and warnit. The samin day Michael Lermonthe beand requyrit to declair quhat actis he hes fund in the buik of visitatioun concerning the excommunicatioun of Mairtein Sawer, the said Michael declairit that he hade fund ane act quhair the said Mairtein was gevin up as excommunicat to the bischop of Dunblane, visitur for the tyme, off the quhilk act the tennour follwis:

The visitatioun of the kirk of Dulicultrie [*sic*] made at the samin upone Twisday the xxij day of July, 1577

Mairtein Aikein with Bessie Gibsone, adulteraris, being bayth excommunicat for the said offence and yit continewing without amendiment contemptusly, quhairfor the bischop, with advis of the assembly present, expreslie inhibittis that na persone or personis within the said parrochun, and speciallie Johnne Watt and Jonet Alexander onnawayis ressave the saidis personis within thair housis or ony manir of way accompany with thame in eating, drinking or communicatioun unto sic tyme thai submit thame selffis to the kirk for thair former offencis and this to be publesit be the reder to the haill parrochinnaris that thai pretend na ignorance thair of in tyme cuming.

At Striviling the xxviiij day of May, 1583

Presentes: Mr William Stirling, James Andirson, Mr Andro Grahame, Mr Arthur Futhie, Mr Andro Yung, Robert Mentayth, Patrik Gillaspie, Michael Lermonthe, Mr Adame Merschell, Alexander Fargy, Johnne Row, ministeris; Mr James Pont, Robert Alexander, elderis; and Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur of exerceis.

Chrystis woll: The quhilk day the brethrein undirstanding that ane gret numbir of pepill hes resortit and resorttis in pilgramage to Chrystis well using thairat superstitioun and idolatrie expres againis Godis law and the actis of parliament, thairfore and for remade quhair of the brethrein ordanis summondis to be direct chairgeing sic of the saidis personis quhais namis salbe gevin in wret to the clark to compeir befor the brethrein to answer thairfoir to the effect ordur may be tane with thame that hes bein thair to the glorie of God and executioun of the kingis majesteis lawis and in example of utheris to do the lyk.

The samin day Robert Mentayth, minister at Tullicultrie, producit befor the brethrein in wret the forme of the admonitionis gevin be him publictlie to William Wat and Jonet Dugy for thair obedience unto the kirk togethir with the forme of the sentence of excommunicatioun pronuncit be him againis thame inrespect of thair contumax as the samin at mair lynthe beris, quhairof the tennour follwis.

Adulteraris in Tullicultrie pronuncit excommunicat: Upone Sondag the vij day of Aprill the yeir of God im vc lxxxij yeiris, I, Robert Mentayth, minister of the Word of God at the kirk of Tullicultrie, past at the command of the presbytery of Striviling to the said parroche kirk of Tullicultrie, and thair immediatlie eftir the sermond publictlie admonesit William Watt and Jonet Dugy, delaitit as incestius adulteraris dwelland within the parrochun of the said kirk, to submit thame selffis to the disceplein of the kirk for thair contumacie and malicius disobedience this lang tyme past undir the paine of excommunicatioun, and that as for the first admonitioun befor the sentence conforme to the ordur, quhilk I did in presens of the haill pepill conveynit to heir Godis Word for the tyme. [Signed] Robert Menteht, minister of the evangell.

Upone Sondag the xxvij day of Aprill the yeir of God foirsaid, I, Robert Mentayth, minister of the Word of God, past at the command of the said presbytery to the said parroch kirk and thair immediatlie eftir the sermond publictlie admonesit the saidis William Wat and Jonet Dugy, as said is, undir the paine of excommunicatioun, and that as for the secund admonitioun befor the sentence, conforme to the ordur, quhilk I did in presens of the haill pepill conveynit to heir Godis Word for the tyme. [Signed] Robert Menteht, minister of the evangell.

Upone Sondag the fyft day of May the yeir of God foirsaid, I, Robert Mentaythe, minister, at command of the said presbytery past to the parroche kirk of Tullicultrie foirsaid and thair immediatlie eftir the sermond publictlie admonesit the said William Wat and Jonet Dugy, as said is, undir the paine of excommunicatioun, and that as for the thrid and last admonitioun befor the pronunceing of the sentence, conforme to the ordur, quhilk I did in presens of the haill pepill conveynit to hier Godis Word for the tyme.

Watt and Dugy pronuncit excommunicat: Upone Sondag the xix

day of May the yeir of God foirsaid, I, Robert Mentayth, minister, at command of the said presbytery past to the said parroche kirk of Tullicultrie and thair immediatlie eftir the sermond inquiryit the elderis of the said kirk, beand present for the tyme, gif ony of the saidis personis haid offerit to ony of thame be thame selffis or be ony uthir in thair namis obedience unto the kirk, quha answerit to me negatievlie, and als inquiryit gif the saidis personis or ony in thair namis wald promeis obedience thair of presentlie to the kirk, quha promesit nane, and thairfor I, the said minister, pronuncit the saidis personis excommunicat and ilk ane of thame according to the ordur and decret of the brethrein of the presbytery of Striviling in all pointis, quhilk I did in presens of the haill pepill conveyit to heir Godis Word for the tyme, in witnes of the quhilkis, I have subscriyvit thir admonitionis and sentence of excommunicatioun with my awin hand as follwis. [*Signed*] Robert Menteht, minister of the evangell.

Johnne Broun: The quhilk day thair was ane summondis product befor us dewlie execute and indorsit upone Johnne Broun, scholmaistir at Stragaithe, chairgeing him to compeir befor us the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis, compeirit the said Johnne Broun personallie, and being accusit for disobeying ane admonitioun gevin to him be Mr Alexander Chisholme, minister, in prophaning of the Sabbath day in playing of clerk playis thairon, withdrawing thairby sindrie of the pepill fra the preiching eftir the said admonitioun was gevin to him, the said Johnne denyit the samin, bot confessit gif ony play was playit on the Sabbath day it was playit be the bairnis by his avys. Secundlie, beand accusit for abusing the sacrament of baptisme and mariage in ministring the same without lauchfull admissioun to that functioun, the said Johnne denyit *simpliciter* the ministring ather of mariage or baptisme. The brethrein being advysit with his answeris ordanis and decernis him to produce the register of the clark play (playit be his bairnis as he allegis) befor the brethrein on the xj day of Junij nixt to be sein and considerit be thame, and to heir and se farther tryell tane anent his accusatiounis under the paine of disobedience, the said Johnne warnit thairto *apud acta*.

Disobedients in Dunblane: The quhilk day thair was ane summondis product befor us dewlie execute and indorsit upone George Dugall at brig end of Dunblane, Thomas Quhyttat, servand to Thomas

Alexander, Thomas Drummond and Margaret Drummond in Corskapill eftir chairgeing thame to compeir befor the brethrein the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for disobedience to the voice of the sessioun of thair awin elderschip and sessioun of the kirk of Dunblane, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis, compeirit all the saidis personis except Thomas Quhyttat and grantit thair offence and submitit thame selffis in the will of the kirk thairfor, and thairfor was ordeinit be the brethrein to pas hame and obey the voice of the said sessioun and nawayis be disobedient thairunto in tymis cuming undir the paine of the censuris of the kirk to be execute againis thame with all rigour. The said Thomas Quhyttet being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. Thairfor the brethrein ordanis him to be summond of new to the effect fairsaid undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

Nicoll Fargus contra Jonet Wrycht: The quhilk day thair was ane summondis producit befor us dewlie execute and indorsit upone Jonet Wricht, dochter to Henrie Wricht in Forest, chairgeing hir to answer at the instance of Nicoll Fargus, parrochinnar in Clakman-nan, and to schawe and declair befor the brethrein ane ressonable caus quhy scho will nocht compleit mariage with the said Nicoll according to ane matremoniall contract made betuix thame, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis, the said Jonet beand oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. Thairfor the brethrein ordanis the said Jonet to be summond of new to the effect fairsaid undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

At Striviling the iiij day of *Junij*, 1583

Presentes: Mr William Stirling, James Andirsonne, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Andro Yung, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Michael Lermonthe, Mr Adame Merschell, Alexander Fargy and Patrik Layng, ministeris; Alexander Balvaird, Andro Kirk and William Stirling, rederis; Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur of exerceis; Robert Alexander and Umphra Cunynghame, elderis.

Robert Fogo: In the terme assignit to the brethrein to advys with the accusationis layit againis Robert Fogo in Doun, the said Robert compeirand personallie, he was accusit be the moderatour gif he baptizit the bairne gottin first in adultrie be William Murray now

in Strathern on [blank] (the kirk nocht beand satisfait thairfor), the said Robert Fogo confessit the same. The brethrein, being advysit with the accusatiounis layit againis him and his answeris made thairto, findis the said Robert Fogo to have abusit the sacrament of baptisme and mariage in ministratioun of thame without ony lauchfull admissioun thairto in wret as aucht to have bein, and lykways findis him to have baptezit bairnis, ane gottin in adultrie and ane uthir in fornicatioun (the kirk nocht beand satisfait be thair parentis), againis the actis of the kirk, and thairfor dischairgis the said Robert Fogo *simpliciter* that he tak nocht upone hand at ony tyme fra thisfurthe nather to ministrat baptisme nor mariage to na personis undir the paine of the censuris of the kirk to be execute againis him with all rigour, and als ordanis the said Robert to compeir befor the brethrein the xxv day of *Junij* instant in the parroche kirk of Striviling to gif ane tryell of his reiding as he salbe desyrit and to heir and se tryell tane of his lyf and conversatioun undir the paine of deprivation of him fra reiding in the kirk.

Commissionaris to Muthill: In the terme assignit to Mr Andro Yung, Mr William Stirling and Michael Lermonthe, commissionaris appointit to pas and vesie the kirk of Muthill as ane act made thairupone on the ix day of Aprill last bypast at mair lynthe beris, and that quhat thay fand be thir said visitatioun to report the samin to the brethrein this day, the saidis commissionaris beand personallie present was requyrit to declair to the brethrein thair report, as thay war commandit. The saidis commissionaris answerit that the tyme thai passit to the said kirk thair was nocht ane sufficient numbir of the parrochun conveynit, and thairfor continewit thair visitatioun quhill ane greter numbir of the parrochun mycht be gottin conveynit to that effect. The brethrein continewis the saidis personis commissionaris as was of befor to the [blank] day of [blank] and ordanis thame to report to the brethrein the said day quhat thai find be thair said visitatioun.

Thomas Quhyt, adulterar: The quhilk day thair was ane summondis product befor us lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Thomas Quhyt in Kildeis chairgeing him to have compeirit the said day to heir and se him self decernit to be excommunicat for his contemp and disobedience, as at mair lynthe is conteinit thairin, compeirit the said Thomas personallie and grantis his disobediencis, for the quhilk

he submittis him self in the will of the brethrein, and being accusit be the moderatour for adultrie with Agnes Gentill, inrespect he is mareit with Jonet Drummond quha is yit alyve, the said Thomas confessis him mareit with the said Jonet and grantis carnall copulation with the said Agnes by his wyf, and thairfor is fund be the brethrein to have committit adultrie, for the quhilk he is ordeinit to pas to the nixt synnodall assemblie of this province to be haldin in Edinbrugh the first day of October nixttocum, thair to ressave injunctionis to be injonit to him for his said offence and obey thame undir the paine of disobedience, and lykwys is admonesit to abstein fra the said Agnes in carnall dell in all tymis cuming undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

Nicoll Fargus contra Jonet Wrycht: The quhilk day ane summondis beand productit lauchfullie execut and indorsit upone Jonet Wrycht, dochter to Henrie Wricht in Forest, chairgeing hir to compeir befor the brethrein the said day to answer at the instance of Nycoll Fargus in Brachteburn within the parrochun of Clakmannan, to schaw and declair ane ressonable caus quhy scho will nocht compleit mariage according to ane matrimoniall contract made betuix the said Henrie Wrycht and hir, on that ane part, and the said Nycoll, on that uthir part, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis productit thairupone, baithe the saidis parteis compeirand personallie, and the said Jonet Wricht, beand requyrit to declair ane ressonable caus quhy sche wald nocht compleit mariage with the said Nycoll, could declair nane bot continewit still obstinat in refus of the same, and farther beand requyrit be the moderatour to declair gif scho was contractit in mariage with consent of hir parentis to the said Nycoll, scho and hir fathir, also being present, confessit bayth the same and that thair banis war proclamit thre sindrie Sondagis according to the ordur. With the quhilkis, the brethrein being advysit findis the said Jonet Wricht inconstant in passing fra the promeis of mariage quhilk scho haid made, as said is, and lykwys the said Henrie, hir fathir, in approving hir passing thairfra againis his awin formar consent to the said promeis, and thairfor inrespect of the said Jonettis malicius refus decernis the said Nycoll Fargus fre to marie in the Lord nochtwithstanding of the formar contract, and for the said Jonet and Henreis inconstancie decernis the said Jonet to mak publict repentence in the parroche kirk of Clakmannan the nixt Sunday,

viz., the ix of this instant, in the plaice appointit for penitents in tyme of sermond according to the ordur, undir paine of disobedience, and the said Henrie, hir fathir, inrespect of his refus to compleit the said mariage nochtwithstanding of his formar consent, being hir fathir, decernis him to pay x libis. usuall mony of this realme, to be applyit to the decoratioun of thair parroche kirk of Clakmannan, according to ane act of the generall assemblie made thairanent, and farther inhibitis and forbiddis the minister of Clakmannan and all uthir ministeris or rederis havand functioun within the kirk that nane of thame minister ony benefeit of the kirk to the said Henrie nor his said dochter ay and quhill the saidis Henrie and Jonet satisfie our said decreit in all pointis alsweill civille as spirituallie, as thay or ony ane of thame will answer thairfoir to the kirk.

Adulteraris in Clakmannan: The quhilk day Patrik Layng being desyrit be the moderatour to declair quhow off he haid admonesit the personis dwelland within the parrochun of Clakmannan that ar decernit to be excommunicat to submit thame selffis to the disceplein of the kirk for thair contumacie, and lykwys being desyrit to produce the forme of his admonitionis in wret as he was ordeinit, the said Patrik ansorit that he hade admonesit thame lauchfullie on twa sindrie Sondagis and as tuiching the forme of his admonitiounis confessit he hes nocht as yit put thame in wret in perfyte forme but he sall do it and produce thame befor the brethir on the xvij day of *Junij* instant. The brethrein ordanis him to gif the saidis personis the thrid admonitioun befor the sentence on Sondag nixt and to produce the forme of his haill admonitionis according to his promeis.

Patrik Layng: The samin day Patrik Layng beand desyrit to produce his answeris to the accusatiounis layit againis him according to the brethreinis ordinance made on the vij of May last bypast, compeirit the said Patrik and producit his answeris in wret as thai bair in thame selffis, with the quhilkis the brethrein tuik to advys to the xvij day of *Junij* instant the said Patrik warnit thairto *apud acta*.

Patrik Layng: The brethrein undirstandand Patrik Layng to have ressavit summondis for chairgeing of Margaret Bruce to compeir befor the brethrein to answer at the instance of the kirk for adultrie

allegit committit be hir with Robert Bruce of Clakmannan, quhilk summondis he hes sindrie tymis neglectit in the executioun, thairfor the moderatour, in name of the brethrein, chairgis the said Patrik to execute the said summondis on the said Margaret and to produce the samin deulie execut and indorsit upone the xvij day of this instant undir the paine of *simpliciter* deprivation of him fra the offeice of the ministrie, and that conforme to ane generall ordinance made thairanent the xij day of Merche last.

Anent the proclamatioun of Johnne Aissone and Violat Rind: The quhilk day it was proponit to the brethrein be James Andirson, minister, that quhair ane man callit Johnne Aisson, born in Craigin-forth within the parrochun of S. Ninianis kirk, quha hes dwelt ane lang tyme sensyne in the brugh of Striviling and now is ane traffiquer be sie and hes na certane dwelling plaice, quhilk Johnne is contractit in mariage with Violat Rind, ane parrochinnar in Perth, quhais bannis ar proclamit, or to be proclamit, in the parroche kirk of Perth, for the said Violattis part, and that the said Johnne desyris that his bannis be proclamit in Striviling, for his part, and thairfor inrespect of the premis the said minister inquiryt gif his bannis salbe proclamit in Striviling, as he desyris, or nocht. The brethrein ordanis his bannis to be proclamit in the kirkis of Striviling and S. Niniane, lauchfullie according to the ordur, and the ministeris thairfor to report to the minister of Perth thair testimoniallis testefeand the trewth.

Anent repentence of Johnne Aissone: Secundlie, the said minister of Striviling declairit that the saidis Johnne Aissone and Violat Rind hes gottin ane bairne in fornicatioun in the plaice of Kilmaronock, for the quhilk as yit the kirk is nocht satisfeit and (as the said minister informit) the said Johnne dar nocht pas to the kirk of Kilmaronock to satisfie the samin for his said fault without gret dainger of his lyf, and trew it is that the said Violat was lichter of the said bairne in Striviling quhair scho remainit the speace of sex oulkis or thairby, and thairfor *queritur* quhair the said Johnne sould mak repentence in respect of the premis. The brethrein ordanis him to mak publict repentence in the parroche kirk of Striviling, according to the ordur.

Johnne Kemp: Thridlie, the said minister declairit that he is informit that Johnne Kemp, allegit reder at Lecrop, hes baptizit

the said bairne gottin be the saidis personis without ony admissioun and that abusitie in ane prophane hous in the Latein langage. For tryell of the quhilkis, the brethrein ordanis him to be summond to the nixt sessioun to answer thairfor and sic uthir thingis that salbe layit unto his charge undir the paine of disobedience.

Chrystis woll: The quhilk day thair was ane summondis productit dewlie execute and indorsit upone Margaret Wrycht in Cambus, Johnne Kidstoun thair and Thomas Patersone in Blak Grainge chargeing thame to compeir befor the brethrein the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for passing in pilgrimage to Chrystis woll and using of superstitioun and idolatrie thairat undir the paine of disobedience, quhilkis being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, thairfor the brethrein ordanis thame to be summond of new to the effect fairsaid under the paine of excommunicatioun.

William Wingyett: The quhilk day ane summondis beand productit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone William Wingyet and Jonet Johnesone chargeing thame to compeir the said day to heir and se thame selfis decernit to be excommunicat for thair contemp and wilfull insisting in the vyce of fornicatioun without amendiment, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis productit thairupone, compeirit the said William personallie and promesis to obey the censuris of the kirk and to abstein in all tymis cuming fra the said Jonet or ellis marie hir. The brethrein decernis and ordanis the said William Wingyet to act cautioun in the commissaris buikis of Striviling betuix and the xvij day of *Junij* instant that he sall obey and satisfie the injunctiounis of the kirk for his said offence and to abstein fra the woman with all possablie diligence or ellis compleit mariage with hir under the paine of xx libis. [excommunication, *deleted*] and this cautioun to be actit, as said is, under the paine of excommunicatioun.

Robert Leckie: The quhilk day ane summondis beand productit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Robert Leckie of Kepderrocht chargeing him to have compeirit the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for disobedience to the voice of the sessioun of his awin parroche kirk of S. Niniane [Clakmannan, *deleted*] and to heir and se him self decernit to have committit adultrie with Jonet Mairtein, yunger, and to underly the censuris of the kirk alsweil for his disobedience to the voice of the said sessioun as for his said

adultrie allegit committit be him under the paine of disobedience, quhilk Robert being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, thairfor the brethrein ordanis him to be summond of new to the effect foirsaid under the paine of excommunicatioun.

Mr Andro Graham: The same day the brethrein, upone ressonablle considerationis, grantis lycence to Mr Andro Grahame to pas to his fathir for performing of sic ressonablle bissines as he hes ado, provyding he appoint to the moderatour betuix and the xvij day of this instant ane peremptour of day of his returne within ane moneth or thairby.

At Striviling the xj day of *Junij*, 1583

Presentes: Mr William Stirling, James Andirson, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Andro Yung, Robert Mentayth, Alexander Fargy, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Mr Arthur Futhie, ministeris; Johnne Erskine of Dun, Alexander Forester of Garden, Umphra Cunynghame, Robert Alexander, elderis; and Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur of exerceis.

McKie, Stewart: The quhilk day Alexander Fargy, minister at Logy, reportit to the brethir that he hade admonesit James McKie and Jane Stewart, adulteraris, thre sindrie Sondayis lauchfullie according to the ordur to submit thame selffis to the discipline of the kirk for thair contumacie and malicius disobedience to the voice thair of undir the paine of excommunicatioun and as yit seis na obedience offirit. Thairfor the brethrein ordanis the said Alexander Fargy to proceid and pronounce the sentence of excommunicatioun againis thame lauchfullie according to the ordur gif thai continue still obstinat.

Johnne Broun: The quhilk day being assignit to Johnne Broun, scholmaistir at Stragayth, to produce the register of ane clark play playit be his bairnis (as he allegis), compeirit the said Johnne Broun and producit the register of the said play. For veseing of the quhilk buik, the brethrein appointis the brethrein in Striviling to vesie the same and to report thair jugementis thair of to the brethrein on the ij day of July nixt, the said Johnne warnit thairto and to answer to uthir accusatiounis *apud acta* undir the paine of disobedience.

Johnne Broun: The samin day the brethrein appointis to the said Johnne Broun this thesis, viz., it is lesum to play clark playis on the

Sabboth day or nocht, and quhethir gif it be lesum or nocht to mak clark playis on ony part of the scripture, quhilk thesis the said Johnne is ordeinit to put in Latein, and to use sic probabllle argumentis as he can for preving of bayth the partis of the said thesis and to produce the samin in wret befor the brethrein on the ij day of July nixt undir the paine of disobedience.

Disobedientis at Chrystis woll: The quhilk day ane summond is beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Jonet Tailyour, spous to Robert Cowane in Touch, Marione Watsone thair, Marjorie Fargussone thair, Margaret Downy in Polmais, Jonet Mayne dwelland undir Johnne Downy in Mossyd, chairgeing thame to have compeirit the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for passing in pilgrimage to Chrystis woll and using of superstitioun and idolatrie thairat expres againis Goddis law, undir the paine of disobedience, quhilkis personis being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, thairfor the brethrein ordanis the saidis personis to be summond of new to the effect fairsaid undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

Johnne Wilsone: The quhilk day compeirit Johnne Wilsone in Polmais, quha being accusit be the moderatour for haulding of Agnes Mentayth quhomewith he committit fornicatioun in hous with him, as yit, quhom he was ordeinit be the brethrein to have separat fra him ane lang tyme sensyne, the said Johnne answerit that he had lang syne dischairgit the said Agnes his hous, quha, as yit, hes nocht obeyit his command. The brethrein ordanis the said Johnne Wilsone to remove the said Agnes furthe of his and nocht to ressave hir thairin at na tyme thaireftir with all possabllie diligence and that he cum nocht in hir cumpany in na plaice that may gif ony suspitioun off hurdum under the paine of excommunicatioun, with certificatioun and he failze ordanis Patrik Gillaspie, minister, to pronounce the sentence of excommunicatioun againis him according to the ordur.

Johnne Kemp: The quhilk day ane summond is beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Johnne Kempe, allegit reder at the kirk of Lecrop, chairgeing him to have compeirit the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for ministratioun off baptisme without admissioun and abusing of the sacrament thair of in ministratioun of the same in ane prophane hous in ane uncouth and

strainge langage as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the summondis producit thairupone, compeirit the said Johnne Kemp personallie and being desyrit be the moderatour to declair gif he baptezit ane bairne gottin in fornicatioun be Johnne Aissone, sone to James Aissone in Craginforth, on Violat Rind, now in Perth (quhilke parentis haid nocht satisfeit the kirk for the said fornicatioun), the said Johnne Kemp confessit the baptezin of the same bairne. Farder the said Johnne being desyrit to declair in quhat plaice he baptezit the same, in quhat langage, and the remanent of the circumstancis thairof, the said Johnne confessit he baptezit the said bairne in Alexander Wilsonis hous in Knockhill in the Latein langage on the first Sonday of Lenterun betuix ix and x houris in the morning in presens of the said Alexander Wilson, Jonet Ewein, his spous, Merjorie Robertsons in Castell hill and James Aissone, brothur to the fathir of the said bairne. The said bairne was callit James Aissone and denyit that he ressavit ony thing thairfor. Secundlie, the said Johnne Kemp being desyrit be the moderatour to declair gif he baptezit ane bairne gottin be William Murray in adultrie last by his wyf, quha haid nocht satisfeit the kirk thairfor, and the circumstancis thairof, as said is, the said Johnne Kemp confessit the baptezin of the said bairne in Nicoll Andersonis hous, *alias* Nycoll Millar in the Keir, in the Latein langage, the said Nycoll beand present, and denyit he ressavit ony thing thairfor.

Deprivatioun off Johnne Kemp: The brethrein, having diligentlie considerit the accusatiounis layit againis the said Johnne Kemp and his answeris made thairto, and being ryplie advysit thairwith, findis the said Johnne Kemp ane prophaner of the sacrament off baptism in ministring the samin in prophaine housis in ane uncouth and strainge langage expres againis Godis word, and findis the said Johnne nocht lauchfullie admittit to ministrat baptism in the kirk of God and thairfor thocht the said Johnne Kemp worthie to be deposit and deposite him *simpliciter* fra reding in the kirk of God and all functioun thairof and exerceis of ony part of the ministrie thairof at all tymis frat[h]isfurth, and ordanis thir his offensic confessit be him to be delaitit to the kingis majestie for puneishment of the same, and gif the bairne salbe haldin as lauchfullie baptezit or nocht and tuiching the said Johnne Kempis repentence, the brethrein continewis thair judgementis thairin quhill thai be farder advysit, quhilke

deprivatioun of the said Johnne Kemp is presentlie intimat to him be the moderatour that he pretend na ignorance thair of.

Chrystis woll, Thomas Patersone: The quhilk day ane summond is beand productit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Margaret Wrycht in Cambus, Jonet Kidstoun thair, and Thomas Patersone in Blak Grainge, chairgeing thame to have compeirit the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for passing in pilgrimage to Chrystis woll and using of superstitioun and idolatrie thairat expres againis Godis law under the paine of excommunicatioun, compeirit the said Thomas Patersone and being accusit be the moderator for his passing to the said woll and desyrit him to declair quhat was the occasioun of his thair ganging and quhat he usit and did quhen he was thair, the said Thomas confessit he past to the said woll to gait his haill becaus he is seik lyk as he hes bein this lang tyme and that he past sone gaittis about the woll and sat down on his kneis and prayit, and drank of the woll and cust waltir on his hed and wosche his hed and breist and tuke ane peice of the breist of his sark about ane bus besyd the woll and left it thair, and als confessis that Jonet Kidston, Hellein Scott, Margaret Bwey in Cambus and Robert Andirsone was at the said woll with him, and submittis him self in the will of the kirk for his offence. The brethir continewis thair jugementis heirin quhill thai be farther advysit.

Disobedientis: The said Margaret Wrycht and Jonet Kidstoun being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. Thairfor the brethrein findis thame contumax and ordanis thame to be excommunicat for thair contumacie with certificatioun and thai failze the brethrein will proceid and decern thame to be excommunicat, as said is.

Thomas Quhytet: The quhilk day ane summond is beand productit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Thomas Quhytet, servand to Thomas Alexander, chairgeing him to have compeirit the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for disobedience to the voice of the sessioun and elderschip of his awin kirk of Dunblane and to underly disceplein thairfor undir the paine of excommunicatioun, quhilk Thomas being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, thairfor the brethren findis the said Thomas contumax, and thairfor ordanis him to be summond to heir and se him self decernit to be excommunicat for his contumacie, with certificatioun and he failzie the brethrein will proceid and decern him to be excommunicat, as said is.

Disobedientis at Chrystis woll: The quhilk day ane summondis beand productit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Jonet Porter, spous to James McCalpie in Bohaldie, and Hellein Dow in Lyttill Coig, chairgeing thame to have comeperit the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for passing in pilgrimage to Chrystis woll and using of superstitioun and idolatrie thairat againis the law of God undir the paine of disobedience, quhilk personis, being oft tymis callit, comeperit nocht, thairfor the brethrein ordanis thame to be summond of new to the effect fairsaid undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

Buik of discipline of Alwayth veseit: The samin day the buik of disceplein of the parrochun of Alwayth was veseit and admittit for the present and delyverit againe to Robert Mentayth, minister thairof, and praysis his diligence, bot findis that the particular sessioun of the said parrochun hes mellit with civill thingis, namelie, anent trublance, castein of stouppis and capitall crymis as stelling of yowis and peis, and thairfor ordanis the minister nocht to suffir na thingis to be trettit in the said sessioun in tymis cuming bot ecclesiasticall causis and also admonesis the said Robert to register in ane buik all bairnis baptezit be him, mariagis compleit be him and personis bureit within his parrochun.

The brethrein, understandand Mr Arthur Futhie to have sum ressonable bissines ado furth of thir partis, thairfor grantis him lycence to be absent the space of ane moneth.

At Striviling the xviii day of *Junij*, 1583

Presentes: Mr William Stirling, James Andirson, Patrik Gillaspie, Patrik Layng, Mr Andro Yung, Michael Leronthe, Alexander Fargy, ministeris; Umphra Cunynghame, Mr James Pont, Robert Alexander, elderis; and Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur off exerceis.

Patrik Layng: In the terme assignit to Patrik Layng to produce the first of his admonitionis gevin be him to the personis within the parrochun of Clakmannan, quha ar discernit to be excommunicat for disobedience to the kirk, and lykwys to produce ane summondis dewlie execute and indorsit on Margaret Bruce according to actis made thairanent, comeperit the said Patrik and confessit he hes admonesit the saidis personis decernit to be excommunicat thre

sindrie Sondays according to the ordur, and fundis na obedience in nane of thame as yit, bot he hes nocht put the saidis admonitionis in wret in perfyt forme as yit, bot he sall do the samin sason as he can gudlie, and as tuiching the executioun of the said summondis on Margaret Bruce allegit he was manasit and bostet be Robert Bruce of Clakmannan with mony injurius wordis, quhilk he promesit to performe in deid incaice he execute the said summondis. The brethrein, yit as of befoir, commandis and chairgis the said Patrik Layng to produce befoir the brethrein on the ij day of July nixtocum the forme of his said admonitionis in wret, the said summondis dewlie execute and indorsit, and his buik of disceplein to be sein and considderit be the brethrein undir the paine of deprivation with certificatioun and he failze in ony of thame he salbe deprivit *simpliciter*.

Patrik Layng: In the terme assignit to the brethrein to advys with the answeris productit be Patrik Layng to the accusatiounis layit againis him, the said Patrik compeirand personallie, the brethrein, having red the saidis answeris, fundis the said Patrik to have wretten in the beginning thair of ane answer to the first hed of his accusatioun (as appeiris be the beginning of the secund answer), quhilk answer the said Patrik hes ryvin away (as he presentlie confessis), quhilk appeiris to the brethrein to be varie suspicius, and thairfor commandis him to produce the samin first answer ryvin away, as said is, befoir the brethrein on the secund day of July nixt under hiest paine and chairge that may follw be the censuris of the kirk.

Parrochinneris of Kippen, Chrystis woll: Agnes Grahame, Margaret Bauchok, Jonet Harvie, Ewffame Mureson, William Kay: The quhilk day ane summondis beand productit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upon Agnes Grahame, spous to Robert Lockart in Arnepriour, Margaret Bauchok in Arnenanwall, Jonet Harvy, spous to Thomas Michell in Arnebeg, Margaret Wrycht, spous to Robert Harvy in Arnebeg, Elezabeth Galbrayth, spous to Johnne Campbell in Arngibbon, Cristane Clark, spous to [John] McHenrie in Boclyvie, Elezabeth Levenox, spous to Johnne McAndro in Boclyvie, Agnes Blair, spous to Johnne Dow in the garran of Boclyvie, Ewffame Moreson, dochtir to umquhill Johnne Moresone *alias* Chapman at the kirk of Kippen, Jonet Gairdner, spous to Patrik McIlhois in

Scheirgartane, Johnne Grahame, sone to Robert Henriesone in the Port, William Kay in Bruigh and Johnne Leckie in Balegan, chairgeing thame to have compeirit the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for passing in pilgramage to Chrystis woll and using of superstitioun and idolatrie thairat againis the law of God ilk persone under the paine of disobedience, compeirit the said Agnes Grahame personallie and confessit scho passit to the said woll and quhen scho come thair scho past round about it and cust the waltir of it ovir hir schulduris, and confessit that Margaret Bauchok was with hir, and Jonet Wrycht, spous to Johnne Harvy in Kippen. The said Margaret Bauchok compeirand personallie, confessit scho past to the said woll with the said Agnes Grahame and that scho past round about the woll bot drank nocht of it. The said Jonet Harvie compeirit personallie and confessit scho past to the said woll becaus scho was seik in hir hairt and in hir hed and lipnit that the woll sould have helpit hir seikness, and confessit that scho past about the woll and cust the waltir ovir hir schuldur and drank of it and left ane peice suwde behind hir and prayit Chrystis woll to help hir. The said Ewffame Moresone compeirit personallie and confessit lyk the said Jonet Harveis confessioun in all thingis except that scho prayit nocht to Chrystis woll to help hir. The said William Kay compeirit personallie and confessit he passit to Chrystis woll for ane bairne of his awin, callit Johnne Kay, that was seik and that he tuik with him ane apprun string of the bairne and that he past about the woll and prayit to Chrystis Sonday to help his bairne and brocht hame the walter of the said woll and gaif to the bairne to drink and left the bairnis apprun string at the woll behind him and confessis that Hobbie Clark, *alias* Robert Clark, ane common begger, that usis maist in Fintrie, was thair at the said woll. The remanent of the saidis personis being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. Thairfor the brethrein ordanis thame to be summond of new to the effect forisaid undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

Chrystis woll, Hellein Scott, Margaret Bwey: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Hellein Scott, Margaret Bwey in Cambus, and Robert Andirson chairgeing thame to have compeirit the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for passing in pilgramage to Chrystis woll and using of superstitioun and idolatrie thairat expres againis Godis law

under the paine of disobedience, compeirit the said Hellein Scott and confessit scho past to Chrystis woll for seiknes at hir hairt and ane sairnes that was in his arme, and that scho past about the woll and prayit to Chrystis Sondag and drank of the walter thairof and layd it on hir hed and hir arme and thaireftir left ane peice of hir leace behind hir. Compeirit the said Margaret Bwey and confessit scho past to the said woll becaus scho hade the miegroun in hir hed and farther confessit lyk the said Hellein Scott in all thingis except that scho left behind hir ane peice of threid and confessit that Robert Andirsone foirsaid was present thair, quha being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. Thairfor the brethrein ordanis him to be summond of new to the effect foirsaid undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

Margaret Wrycht, acquyt; Jonet Kidstoun: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execut and indorsit upone Margaret Wrycht in Cambus and Jonet Kidstoun thair chairgeing thame to have compeirit the said day to heir and se thame selffis decernit to be excommunicat for thair contemp and disobedience compeirit bayth the saidis personis and grantit thair offence and disobedience to the kirk and offrit thame selffis in the will of the brethrein thairfoir. Als, the said Margaret Wrycht being accusit for passing in pilgramage to Chrystis woll, the said Margaret denyit the samin *simpliciter*, and becaus the samin could nocht be varefeit the said Margaret was acquyt thairof. The said Jonet Kidstoun, being accusit for passing in pilgramage to the said woll, confessit scho past thair to get help for ane sairnes in hir syd and confessis scho past about the woll and prayit to Chrystis Sondag and drank of the woll and wische hir syd with the walter thairof and left behind hir ane sowein threid.

Chrystis woll, Marione Fargusson, Jonet Tailyour, denyit: The samin day compeirit Marione Fargussone in Touch and Jonet Tailyour, spous to Robert Cowane in Touch, quha was chairgit to have compeirit the xj day of this instant to have answerit at the instance of the kirk for passing in pilgramage to Chrystis woll and using of superstitioun and idolatrie thairat, the saidis Marione and Jonet denyit *simpliciter* that thay passit to the said woll nor was nocht myndit thairto bot allegit that sindrie personis that was thair beand apprehendit and desyrit to declair thair namis fenzeit thair awin namis and gaif up the namis of uther personis that was nocht

thair, quhilk allegiance was understand to the brethrein to be of varitie in sum, and thairfor the brether acquyttis the saidis Marione Fargussone and Jonet Tailyour of the said pilgramage.

Robert Leckie: The quhilk day ane summonids beand product lauchfullie execut and indorsit upone Robert Leckie of Kepderroch, chairgeing to have compeirit the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for disobedience to the voice of the elderschip of his awin parroche kirk of S. Niniane and to heir and see him self decernit to have committit adultrie with Jonet Mairtein, yunger, and to underly the censuris of the kirk, alsweill for his disobedience to the voice of the said elderschip as for the said adultrie allegit committit be him undir the paine of excommunicatioun, quhilk Robert being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, and thairfor was fund be the brethrein contumax and ordeinit to be summond to heir and se him self decernit to be excommunicat for his contumacie and malicius disobedience with certificatioun and he failze the brethrein will proceid and decern him to be excommunicat, as said is.

At Striviling the xxv day of *Junij*, 1583

Presentes: Mr William Stirling, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Robert Mentaythe, Patrik Gillaspie, Michael Lermouthe, Mr Adame Merschell and Alexander Fargy, ministeris; Umphra Cunynghame, Robert Alexander, Alexander Patersone, notar, elderis; and Mr Alexander Iule, ane brother of exerceis.

Niniane Aikein, adulterar: The quhilk day compeirit Niniane Aikein, adulterar with Hellein Hendersone, and being accusit be the moderatour quhy he past nocht to the last synnodall assemble haldin in Edinburgh, as he was warnit be Andro Forester, now his minister, the said Niniane ansorit he was nocht warnit be his said minister to that effect, bot promesit in tymis cuming to obey all that the kirk will command him. The brethrein with consent of the said Niniane ordanis him to compeir befor the brethrein on Twysday befor none immediatlie preceding the fest of Michalmes, viz., on the xxiiij day of September nixt to ressave directionis and admonitiounis, thame to be gevin to him under the paine of excommunicatioun, quhilk ordinance the said Niniane promesis to obey.

McKie, Stewart: The quhilk day, Alexander Fargy, minister at Logy, being inquyrit gif he hade pronuncit the sentence of excommunicatioun againis James McKie and Jane Stewart, adulteraris, as he was ordeinit or nocht, the said Alexander Fargy ansorit that he hade pronuncit the sentence of excommunicatioun againis the saidis personis according to the brethreinis ordinance in all pointis. The brethrein ordanis the said Alexander to produce in wret in perfyt forme the sentence pronuncit be him with the forme of the admonitionis gevin be him of befor on the ix day of July nixt that farther ordur may be tane thairanent.

William Wingyet: The brethrein undirstandand that forsamekill as upone the iiij day of *Junij* instant William Wingyet was decernit and ordeinit to act cautioun in the commissaris buikis of Striviling betuix and the xvij day of *Junij* instant that he sall obey and satisfie the injunctionis of the kirk for his offence of fornicatioun and to abstein fra the woman with all possabll diligence or ellis compleit mariage without dely undir the paine of xx libis., and this cautioun to be actit, as said is, under the paine of excommunicatioun, as at mair lynth is conteinit in the said act of the det foirsaid, nochttheles the brethrein understandand be report of the said commissar that the said William hes nocht as yit actit cautioun, as said is, and thairfor is jugit to have incurrit the sentence of excommunicatioun to be pronuncit againis him becaus the said xvij day of *Junij* is alreddy bypast, and is ordeinit be the brethrein to be summond to heir and se him selff decernit to be excommunicat for his said failze and disobedience with certificatioun and he failze, the brethrein will proceid and decern him to be excommunicat, as said is, and als that Jonet Johneston, fornicatrix with the said William Wingyet, be lykwys summond to heir and se farther proces led againis hir in the said mater undir the paine of disobedience.

Johnne Wod: It beand reportit be the brethrein of Dunblane and in speciall be Mr Andro Yung on the xvij day of this instant that he hade gevin to Johnne Wod, scholmaister at Muthill, lang sensyne ane thesis, as it bure in the selff, quhairupoun he was commandit to make declamatioun and to report the samin againe to the brethrein of Dunblane, quhairbe thai mycht have haid tryell of his habilitie to teiche ane schulle that thai mycht report the samin to the brethrein according to thair ordinance made on the xxj day of May

last bypast, quhilk delcamatiounis the said Johnne Wod hes nevir reportit to the brethrein of Dunblane as yit, and thairfor the scrib at command of the brethrein wret ane misseive in name of the brethir desyrand him to compeir the said day and produce before the haill brethrein his declamatioun on the thesis ressavit be him, fra the said Mr Andro Yung, as the scrib testefeit at mair lynthe, and for satisfeing of the desyr of the quhilk misseive, Mr Alexander Chisholme producit for ane excuis of his noncomperance ane epistill in Latein, as it beris in the selff, quhilk epistill was committit to be veseit and examinat be Maisteris James Pont and Alexander Iule, and thay to report thair jugementis thair of to the brethrein on the ix day of July nixt.

Thomas Quhytet decernit to be excommunicat: The quhilk day thair was ane summondis producit dewlie execute and indorsit upone Thomas Quhytet, servand to Thomas Alexander, chairgeing him to have compeirit the said day to heir and se him self decernit to be excommunicat for his contumacie and malicius disobedience, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis, the said Thomas being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, and the brethrein, having diligentlie wyit and advysit the said Thomas contumacitie in manifest contemp of the chairgis of the kirk, ordanis and decernis the said Thomas Quhytet to be excommunicat and cuttit aff fra the societie of Chrystis kirk and to be delyverit in the handis of the devill for destructioun of his flesche that his saull may be saif in the day of the Lord Jesus, and commandis and ordanis Mr Andro Yung, minister to the said Thomas, to proceid in admonitionis againis the said Thomas Quhyt[et] for calling of him to obedience according to the ordur and incaise of nonobedience (as God forbid) to proceid to pronounce the sentence of excommunicatioun againis him.

Chrystis woll, Jonet Porter: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Jonet Porter, spous to James McCalpie in Bahaldie, and Hellein Dow in Litill Coig chairgeing thame to compeir the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for passing in pilgrimage to Chrystis woll and using of superstitioun and idolatrie thairat expres againis Godis Word undir the paine of excommunicatioun, compeirit the said Jonet Porter quha, being accusit for passing in pilgramage, as said is, confessit

that scho past to the said woll becaus scho was seik, and confessis scho drank of it and that scho past about the said woll and sat down on hir kneis and prayit to Chrystis Sonday and Chrystis woll to help hir befor scho drank of it and denyis all uther ceremoneis. The said Hellein Dow being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. Thairfor the brethrein findis her contumax and thairfor ordanis hir to be summond to heir and se hir self decernit to be excommunicat for his contumacie and malicius disobedience with certificatioun and scho failze the brethrein will proceid and decern hir to be excommunicat, as said is.

Margaret Downy, Jonet Allane: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit deulie execute and indorsit upone Marione Watsone in Touch, Margaret Downy in Polmais, Jonet Mayne, dwelland undir Johnne Downy in Mossyd, chairgeing thame to have compeirit befor us the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for passing in pilgramage to Chrystis woll and using of superstitioun and idolatrie thairat expres againis Godis Word undir the paine of excommunicatioun, compeirit the said Margaret Downy and confessis scho past furth of hir awin hous myndit to have past to the said woll and wald have past thair war nocht ane certane halbert men met thame ane lytill or thai come to the woll and struik them away, and confessis the occasioun quhairfor scho was myndit to have past thair was becaus of seiknes scho hade and belevit to have bein the better throw hir passing thair. Compeirit Jonet Allane, spous to Richard Nycoll in Carse, and confessit conforme to the said Margaret Downy in all pointis. With the quhilkis confessionis, the brethir, being ryplie advysit, findis the saidis personis nocht to have compleit thair pilgramage nor committit na idolatrie at the said woll as utheris did. Thairfoir thai ar bayth ordeinit to mak public repentence in the publict plaice appointit for penitents in thair parroche kirk of Sanct Ninniane on Sonday nixt, viz., the last day of this instant in tyme of sermond undir the paine of disobedience. The saidis Marione Watsone and Jonet Mayne, being oft tymis callit, compeirit nocht. Thairfor the brethrein findis thame contumax and ordanis thame to be summond to heir and se thame selfis decernit to be excommunicat for thair contumacie and malicius disobedience, with certificatioun and thai failze the brethrein will decern thame to be excommunicat, as said is.

At Striviling the ij day of July, 1583

Presentes: Mr William Stirling, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Michael Lermouthe, Alexander Fargy, Robert Mentayth, Patrik Layng, ministeris; Mr James Pont, Robert Alexander, Umphra Cunynghame, elderis; Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur of exerccis; Alexander Balvaird, William Stirling, rederis.

Robert Fogo: The quhilk day the brethrein undirstanding that forsamekill as upone the iiij day of *Junij* last bypast Robert Fogo in Doun was decernit and ordeinit to have compeirit befor thame on the xxv day of *Junij* last to have gevin ane tryell of his habilitie for reding in the kirk as he sould have bein requyrit and to have hard and sein tryell tane of his lyf and conversatioun undir the pane of depriviatioun of him *simpliciter* fra all reiding in the kirk, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said ordinance, nochttheles the said Robert compeirit nocht the xxv day, as said is, and thairfor inrespect of his disobedience deservis *simpliciter* depriviatioun according to the formar ordinance. Thairfor the brethrein ordanis the said Robert to be summond to heir and se him self decernit to be deprivit *simpliciter* fra reding in the kirk of God and all functioun thairin as unmeit to beir office thairin, with certificatioun and he failze the brethrein will proceid and decern him to be deprivit *simpliciter*, as said is.

Johnne Brounis play: In the terme assignit to the brethrein of Striviling appointit to vesie the register of the clark play playit be the bairnis of Johnne Broun, scholmaister at Stragayth, to report thair jugementis anent the same, the said brethrein reportit thai hade fund oft tymis thairin mekill baning and swering, sum badrie and filthie baning, the said Johnne Broun beand present quha denyit nocht the sam.

Johnne Broun: In the terme assignit to Johnne Broun to produce declamatiounis on the thesis ressavit be him fra the brethir, compeirit the said Johnne and producit declamatiounis on the said thesis in prois and vers, as they beir in thame selfis, with the quhilkis the brethir tuik to advys.

Johnne Wilsone: The quhilk day compeirit Johnne Wilsone in Polmais and declairit that he hade satisfeit the injunctionis injonit to him be the brethren as ane relaps fornicatioun [*recte*, fornicatour],

quhilk Patrik Gillaspie, his minister, testefeit to be of trewth, and thairfor desyrit his bannis to be proclamit with Agnes Mentayth, with quhome he hade committit the said fornicatioun, quhairwith the brethrein, being advysit and understanding that albeit the said Johnne hade committit adultrie yit he was nocht divorcit thairfoir, and thairfor inrespect of the departing of his wyf, undirstandis him to be fre, quhairfor ordanis the said Patrik Gillaspie, his minister, to proclame his bannis with the said Agnes lauchfullie, according to the ordur, and gif na lauchfull impediment be opponit in the contrar to compleit mariage betuix thame.

Patrik Layng: The quhilk day being assignit to Patrik Layng to produce ane summondis dewlie execute and indorsit on Margaret Bruce, his buik of disceplein to be veseit be the brethrein, the answer made to his first accusatioun, quhilk the brethrein hes fund to be rivin away fra the beginning of his answeris gevin in befoir thame, and also his admonitiounis in perfyt forme made be him againis the disobedientis of Clakmannan, conforme to the brethreinis ordinance made on the xvijj day of *Junij* last bypast, compeirit the said Patrik and, being desyrit be the moderatour to produce as is abone specefeit, ansorit he hade na thing to produce, except the admonitiounis usit be him againis the disobedientis, quhilk was nocht fund formall, eftir that thai war considerit be the brethir. Farder, the said Patrik being accusit for taking of ix s. for compleiting of mariage in the kirk of Clakmannan on Sondag last betuix David Lindsay and Jonet Donaldsone, the said Patrik denyit the samin *simpliciter*. The answeris of the said Patrik Layng with the said accusatioun and utheris accusatiounis gevin in againis him of befoir being considerit be the brethrein, thay find the said Patrik fengzeit in his speikin, sayand now that he hes nocht ane buik of disceplein quhilk befoir he confessit to have hade, negligent in his offeice and disobedient to the voice of the kirk in nocht executing of the said summondis being oft tymis commandit, and to appeir to be varie sclanderus in his offeice in selling of the sacramentis and utheris benefeittis of the kirk. Thairfor the brethrein suspendis the said Patrik fra all functioun in the kirk ay and quhill he produce the said summondis dewlie execute and indorsit on Margaret Bruce, with certificatioun gif he use ony functioun in the kirk in the mentyme he salbe deprivit for evir. Quhilk ordinance beand made

be the brethrein, the said Patrik productit ane wreting in manir of appellatioun fra the jugement of the brethir unto the generall assemblie, as it beris in the self.

Communeris with ane excommunicatt in Dunblane: The quhilk day ane summondis beand productit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Andro Broun in Dunblane, Johnne Lamb in Bahaldie and William Dawsons, officer, chairgeing thame to have compeirit the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for speiking and hauling purpois with Sir William Drummond, ane man excommunicat, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis productit thairin, compeirit the said William Dawsons and denyit *simpliciter* that he spak ony thing to the said Sir William, in respect quhairof the brethrein gevis commission to the particular sessioun of Dunblane to examine certane witnessis for probatioun of the said mater, and thai to report againe the samin to the sessioun the ix of July instant. The said is Andro Broun and Johnne Lamb being oft tymis callit and compeirit nocht, thairfor the brethrein ordanis thame to be summond of new, to the effect foirsaid, undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

William Wingyet decernit to be excommunicat: The quhilk day ane summondis beand productit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone William Winyet chairgeing him to have compeirit the said day to heir and se him self decernit to be excommunicat for his contumacie and malicius disobedience, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis, the said William being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. Thairfor the brethir, having diligentlie wyit and advysit the said Williamis contumacie, ordanis and decernis him to be excommunicat and cuttit aff fra the societie of Christis kirk and to be delyverit in to the handis of the devill for destructioun of his flesche that his saull may be saif in the day of the Lord Jesus, and commandis and ordanis Patrik Gillespie, minister to the said William, to proceid in admonitionis againis him lauchfullie according to the ordur for calling of him to obedience, and incaice of nonobedience (as God forbid) to proceid and pronounce the sentence of excommunicatioun againis him.

Johnne Murehed, disobedient: The quhilk day ane summondis beand productit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Johnne Murehed, yunger, smyth, chairgeing him to have compeirit befor

the brethrein the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for disobedience to the voice of the elderschip of his awin parroche kirk of S. Niniane and to heir and se him self decernit to have committit fornicatioun and to undirly the censuris of the kirk, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis, the said Johnne being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. Thairfor the brethrein ordanis to summond him of new *litteratorie* to the effect foirsaid undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

Chrystis woll, Jonet Mayne, Jonet Gray: The samin day compeirit Jonet Mayne, dwelland undir Johnne Downy in Mossyd, and confessit scho past the maist part of the gait to Chrystis woll and haid past thair, war nocht scho was stayit be men, hopand thairby to have bein mendit of hir diseas. Lykwys compeirit Jonet Gray and confessit conforme to the said Jonet Mayne in all pointis, for the quhilk the said Jonet Mayne and Jonet Gray ar ordeinit be the brethrein to mak publict repentence on Sondag nixt in tyme of sermond in thair parroche kirk of Sanct Niniane in the plaice appointit for penitents undir the paine of disobedience.

At Striviling the ix day of July, 1583

Presentes: Mr William Stirling, James Andirson, Mr Johnne Campbell, bischop of Iyllis, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Alexander Fargy, Mr Andro Yung, Robert Mentayth, Michael Lermonthe, ministeris; Andro Kirk, William Stirling, rederis; Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur of exerceis.

Patrik Layng: The brethrein, considering the gret sclandir that daylie mair and mair inccessis of Patrik Layng bayth as concerning his behaviour in his offeice and in lyf and conversatioun to the end the samin may be ather removit (he beand fund innocent) or thane he worthelie deprivit, he beand fund nocent, hes thocht gud and ordanis probatioun of witnes to be laid againis the said Patrik for preving of the accusationis gevin in againis him of befoir and utheris to be gevin in and thairfor ordanis the said Patrik to be summond to that effect *litteratorie*.

Advysment of Johnne Brounis declamatiounis: The brethrein undirstanding that the declamatiounis and vers made be Johnne Broun on the thasis ressavit be him as yit is nocht advysit, thairfor

the brethrein ordanis and gevis commissioun to the brethrein to vesie the same and to report thair jugementis thairon to the hail brethrein the vj day of August nixt.

William Dawsons: The quhilk day being assignit to the minister of Dunblane [to] report the depositionis of certane witnessis on that accusatioun layit againis William Dawsons, viz., for speiking and hauling purpois with Sir William Drummond, ane excommunicat man, etc., the said minister reportit that he could find na thing be tryell bot that the said William Dawsons stude be syd the said excommunicat bot spak na thing to him. The brethrein ordanis the said minister to admoneis the said William Dawsons nocht to use the lyk in tymis cuming undir the paine of the censuris of the kirk to be execute againis him.

Johnne Muirhed satisfie: The samin day Patrik Gillaspie, minister at S. Ninianis kirk, reportit to the brethrein that Johnne Muirhed, yungar, quha was chairgit to have compeirit befor the brethrein the last sessioun for disobedience to the elderschip of the said kirk hes this last Sondag submittit him self to the disceplein of the kirk befor the said elderschip and hes enterit in the plaice of repentence this last Sondag.

William Wingyet: The quhilk day Patrik Gillaspie being inquyrit be the moderatour gif he hade admonesit William Wingyet on Sondag last as for the first admonitioun to obey the ordinance of the kirk under the paine of excommunicatioun, as he was comandit in the last sessioun, the said Patrik reportit that sensyne, the said William is contractit in mariage with Jonet Johneson, quhomwith he committit the offence of fornicatioun, and hes promesit to compleit mariage with diligence. The brethrein ordanis the said Williamis repentence to be metigat gif he compleit mariage according to his promeis.

Communioun at Kippen: Anent ane complent proponit be ane elder of the kirk of Kippen schawand that it is ane lang tyme sen thai hade the communioun ministrat in thair kirk and, becaus thai hade nocht ane minister to ministrat the same, desyrit the brethrein to appoint sum of the brethir to ministrat the same thair and the parrochun sall caus be furneist all thingis neciser thairto, the brethrein ordanis Mr Alexander Chisholme to ministrat the communioun in the said kirk sasone as he may guidlie, provyding that

ane part of the kirk be made waltirticht and repairit utherwayis that the samin may be done reverentlie as it aucht to be.

Mr Johnne Campbell: The quhilk day compeirit Mr Johnne Campbell, bischop of Iyllis, and desyrit the brethrein to tak farther tryell of him of the hedis conteinit in the act of the generall assemblie becaus thair was sindrie of the Iyllis present in this toun with my lord of Argyll. The quhilk desyr being considerit be the brethrein, it was thocht gude and ordeinit, nochtwithstanding of ane peremptur day assignit to produce the bretheris jugementis, yat my Lord McLane and utheris that was present with him quha hade knowlege of the said Mr Johnis diligence in doctrine and in lyf sould be summond to the nixt sessioun for farther probatioun of tha thingis conteinit in the act of the generall assemblie foirsaid and siclyk ordanis James Andirson and Patrik Gillaspie to speik my lord of Argyll, the laird off Ardkinlaxis and utheris befoir specefeit anent the said accusatiounis and to request thame that thai wald obey the summondis quhen thai sould be chairgit thairto, the said Mr Johnne warnit to the xvj day of July instant to heir and se the saidis witnessis ressavit, sworne and admittit *apud acta*.

Ben fyris: The brethrein undirstandand ane grit abuse and superstitioun usit be sindrie and dyvers personis within the boundis of this presbytery in setting furthe of ben fyris midsomer evin last, expres againis Godis Word and the lawis of the realme, thairfor ilk minister within the boundis of this presbytery is commandit to warne befoir thair awin sessioun all personis within thair awin parrochun setteris furth of the saidis ben fyris and eftir just tryell and convictioun to report thair namis to the presbytery.

McKie and Stewart: The quhilk day being appointit to Alexander Fargy to produce in wret the forme of the sentence of excommunicatioun pronuncit be him againis James McKie and Jane Stewart with the admonitionis gevin be him of befoir, compeirit the said Alexander Fargy and productit in wret the forme of the said sentence of excommunicatioun with the admonitionis gevin be him as it beris in the self. The brethrein appointis and gevis commissioun to the brethrein in Striviling to vesie the said forme productit be the said Alexander and report thair jugementis thairrof on the day xxiiij day of July instant.

Johnne Adame: The same day compeirit Johnne Adame in

Kippen, quha being accusit be the moderatour for blasphemus speiking at the mercat croce of Striviling tending to the allwance of pilgramagis to Chrystis woll, the said Johnne confessit that he spak at the said croce of Striviling that gif he wist to gait his haill at Chrystis woll he wald pas thair quha wald quha wald [*sic*] nocht. For the quhilk caus the brethrein ordanis the said Johnne to mak publict repentence in the kirk of Striviling at the plaice appointit for penitents on Sunday the xxj day of July instant undir the paine of disobedience.

At Striviling the xvj day of July, 1583

Presentes: Mr William Stirling, James Andirsone, Alexander Fargy, Mr Andro Yung, Mr Adame Merschell, Mr Arthur Futhie, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Michael Lermonthe, Johnne Duncansone, ministeris; Mr Johnne Campbell, bishop of Iyllis; Mr Duncane Nevein, William Stirling, rederis; Umphra Cunynghame, elder; Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur of exerceis.

Anent Mr Robert Montgumrie: The brethrein undirstandand that Mr Robert Montgumrie hes bein travelland schort syne in sum parttis of Mentayth besyd Kilbryd, albeit he be excommunicat, and thairfor the brethrein desyris Michael Lermonthe, minister, to try with quhat personis he hes bein with in tha parttis and quahir he lugit and quhat [*sic*] conferit and spak with him, and ordanis him to report thair namis the nixt sessioun.

Excommunicantis in Dunblane: The brethir ordanis and gevis commissioun to the brethrein in Striviling to vesie the process of excommunicatioun deducit againis excommunicantis in Dunblane and to report thair jugementis thair of to the haill brethrein the nixt sessioun.

William Stirling: The quhilk day, James Andirsone, minister at Striviling, producit befor the brethrein ane misseive wreting send to him be Mr Patrik Walkinschaw, minister at the kirk off Drimmen berand in effect that quhair William Stirling, allegit minister at Kippen, hade committit als grit offensic as evir he did befor sen his confirence with the said James Andirsone as heireftir particularlie is mentionat, and thaireftir desyrit the brether to tak tryell thairintill, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the samin of the dett the xij day of

Junij instant, beressone quhair of the moderatour accusit the said William Stirling (beand personallie present) gif he is this instant moneth baptezit ane bairne at the kirk of the Port of Inchemahome gottin be Johnne McVenatar in the parrochun of Drimmen in adulterie by his wyf on Jonet Drummond (the kirk nocht beand satisfeit), the said William denyit *simpliciter* the baptezing of the said bairne. Secundlie, beressone of the said wreting, the moderatour accusit the said William gif he on the [blank] day of the samin moneth baptezit ane uther bairne at the said kirk of Port gottin be ane sarly Buchannane in adultrie on Jonet Nicilwreid, spous to the said Johnne McVenatar, nather of the parentis beand present nor the kirk satisfeit, nathir yit ony promeis cravit for satisfeing of the kirk for the said offence. The said William denyit the haille accusatioun *simpliciter*. For farther tryell of the quhilkis, the brethir ordanis the said Mr Patrik Walkinschaw to be desyrit to send heir the extract of the depositionis of certane witnessis ressavit and examinat be him in the said mater with the circumstancis thair of to the effect the brethir may tak farther ordur thairanent for purging the kirk of sic sclandir.

Andro Broun: The quhilk day ane summond is beand producit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Andro Broun in Dunblane chairgeing him to have compeirit the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for speiking and haulding purpois with William Drummond, ane mane excommunicat and cuttit of from the societie of the faithfull publictlye at the mercat croce of Dunblane on Sonday the xxij day of *Junij* last at xij houris at none expres againis Godis Word, and to underly the disceplein of the kirk thairfoir undir the paine of excommunicatioun, quhilk Andro being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. Thairfor the brethrein ordanis him to be summond *litteratorie* to heir and se him self decernit to be excommunicat for his contumacie and malicius disobedience with certificatioun and he failze we will proceid and decern him to be excommunicat, as said is, according to Godis Word.

Mr Johnne Campbell: The quhilk day ane summond is beand producit lauchfullie execut and indorsit upone Lachlane McLane of Duart, Johnne Dow McLane, fathir brothur to the said Lachlane, Johnne Dow Campbell and Johnne Auchinros, servandis to the said

Lachlane, chairgeing thame to compeir the said day to beir lell and suithfast witnessing anent the diligence of Mr Johnne Campbell, bischop of Iyllis, in doctrein and disceplein within the hielandis, and specialle within the said Lauchlanis boundis, anent his lyf and conversatioun and dilapidatioun of the patrimony of the kirk and sic uthir thingis as thai salbe inquiryt of, insafar is thai knaw or salbe speirit at thame, ilk persone undir the paine of disobedience, the said Mr Johnne Campbell being personallie present, compeirit all the saidis witnessis, quha was ressavit, sworne and admittit and examinat thairupone, as the depositionis beris.

Mr Johnne Campbell: The samin day James Andirson and Patrik Gillaspie, appointit in the last sessioun to speik my lord off Argyll, the laird of Arkinglas and utheris befor specefeit anent the premiss and to request thame to obey the summondis, reportit to the brethrein that thai hade spokin my lord of Argyll and the said laird of Arkinlayis according to thair commissioun, quha ansorit that my lord was to ryd this day in the morning and the said laird of Ardinglas and thairfor could nocht be present in tyme of sessioun, and thairfor thai desyrit the said noble lord and laird to declair to thame the trewthe insafar as thai knew anent Mr Johnne Campbellis diligence in doctrein and disceplein, his lyf and conversatioun and dilapidatioun of the patrimony of the kirk, quha deponit according to thair report to be made and wretin with the depositionis of the remanent witnessis foirsaid.

Mr Johnne Campbell: The brethrein, undirstanding that the brethir of the presbytery off Glasgw hes bettir knowlege of the trewthe of the said Mr Johnnis procedingis anent sic thingis as ar mentionat in the act of the generall assemblie nor we have, thairfor thinkis gude and ordanis that adverteisment be made to thame anent the tryell of the said Mr Johnne desyrand thame to take sic tryell as thai may guidlie of the said Mr Johnnis procedingis anent the heddis conteinit in the act of the generall assemblie and quhat thai find thairby to report the same againe to the brethir betuix and the first Twysday efter S. Lowrence day, viz., the xij day of August nixt, the said Mr Johnne warnit thairto *apud acta*.

Chrystis woll, Hellein Galbrayth, Elezabeth Levenox, Agnes Blair: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit dewlie execute and indorsit upone Margaret Wricht, spous to Robert Harvy in Arnbeg,

Hellein Galbrayth, spous to Johnne Campbell in Arnegibbon, Cristane Clark, spous to Johnne McHenrie in Boclyvie, Elezabeth Levenox, spous to Johnne McAndro in Boclyvie, Agnes Blair, spous to Johnne Dow in the Garrane of Boclyvie, Jonet Gairdner, spous to Patrik McIlhois in Scheirgartane, and Johnne Lecky in Balegorte, chairgeing thame to have compeirit the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for passing in pilgramage to Chrystis woll and using of superstitioun and idolatrie thairat againis the law of God, ilk persone undir the paine of excommunicatioun, compeirit personallie the said Hellein Galbrayth and confessit that scho past ane lairge part of the gait to Chrystis woll, mynding to have past thairto to have gottin hir haill war nocht scho was stoppit be the way, for the quhilk intent and purpos the brethrein ordanis the said Hellein to mak publict repentence in hir awin parroche kirk of Kippen on Sonday nixt in tyme of preiching or prayeris. Compeirit the said Elezabeth Levenox and grantit scho past to Chrystis woll becaus hir foirbearis past thair and becaus scho hade ane sair leg, and confessit that scho belevit the woll sould have helpit it, and confessis scho past ainis about the woll and that scho drank of it. Compeirit the said Agnes Blair personallie and confessis scho past to the said woll to gait health to ane scharg bairne, quhilk scho hade, and belevit that be the waschein of the bairne with the waltir of the said woll he sould ather dee or leve, and confessis that scho past ainis about the woll. The remanent of the saidis personis being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. Thairfor the brether findis thame and ilk ane of thame contumax, and thairfor ordanis thame to be summond to heir and se thame selffis decernit to be excommunicat for thair contumacie and malicius disobedience to the voice of the kirk, with certificatioun and thai failze we will proceid and decerne thame and ilk ane of thame excommunicat for the caus foirsaid according to Godis Word.

Chrystis woll, Marione Gilfillan, Jonet Mairtein, Marjorie Galbrayth: The quhilk day ane summondis beand productit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Jonet Neicklay, spous to Neillen [Allane, *deleted*] Gilfillane, Marione Nekla in Boclyvie, Marione Gilfillane, spous to Duncane Provand, Duncane Watsons, Jonet Mairtein in Garden, Margaret Neill thair, Margaret Leckie, spous to Donald Ure, Margaret Galbrayth, spous to Waltir McAlaster, and the said

Walter McAlaster, and Marjorie Galbraith, spous to Umphra Levenox, chairgeing thame to have compeirit the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for passing in pilgramage to Chrystis woll and using of superstitioun and idolatrie thairat expres againis Godis Word, ilk persone undir the paine of disobedience, compeirit personallie the said Marione Gilfillane and confessit sho past to Chrystis woll becaus scho haid ane sair leg to gait remade thairat to it, and confessis scho drank of it and wische hir leg with the waltir thairof and past ainis about the woll, belevand alwayis scho sould have bein the better of thir hir doingis. Compeirit personallie the said Jonett Mairtein and grantis scho past in pilgramage to Chrystis woll, and thairby belevit to have bein lichter of hir bairne scho was with, and past ainis about the woll and wische hir feit and handis with the waltir thairof, denyis scho drank of it and that scho left ony thing behind hir thairat. Compeirit the said Marjorie Galbrayth and confessit scho past to the said woll becaus scho haid ane sair ee and belevit to have gottin help thairto be the said woll and confessit scho wische hir ee and hir forrat with the waltir thairof. The remanent of the saidis personis being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. Thairfor the brethrein ordanis thame to be summond of new to the effect fairsaid undir paine of excommunicatioun.

Robert Lecky: The quhilk day compeirit Robert Lecky of Kepderroch, spous to [blank], and grantis him to have committit adultrie with Jonet Mairtein, yunger, by his wyf, for quhilk he submittis him self in the will of the brethir. The brethrein ordanis and commandis him to pas to ye nixt provinciall assemblie of this province to be haldin in Edinburgh the first Twysday of October, viz., the first day thairof, thair to ressave his injunctionis for his said offence of adultrie and to obey thame undir the paine of excommunicatioun. Attour, commandis and ordanis the said Robert Lecky to act caution in the commissaris buikis of Striviling with all diligence that he sall obey and satisfie the said ordinance in all pointis undir the paine of xl libis., to be payit be the said cautioner incaice of disobedience with certificatioun and the said Robert failze in acting off cautioun, as said is, the brethir will ordaine Patrik Gillaspie, his minister, to proceid in admonitiounis againis him according to the ordur, and incaice of disobedience (as God

forbid) to proceed to the sentence of excommunicatioun againis him according to our decreit pronuncit thairupone in all pointis, as the samin of the dett the [blank].

At Striviling the xxiiij day of July, 1583

Presentes: James Andirson, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Andro Yung, Mr Arthur Futhie, Robert Mentayth, Michael Lermouthe, Alexander Fargy, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur of exerceis; Mr Duncane Nevein, Alexander Balvaird, rederis; and Robert Alexander, elder.

James Castellaw: The quhilk day compeirit personallie James Castellaw and Margaret Bavarage in quhais presens James Andirson, minister at Striviling, declairit to the brethrein that thai war conveynit befor the particular sessioun of the said kirk on the xviiij day of this instant and was accusit severallie for ressavng of Mr Robert Montgumrie in thair hous, being excommunicat, on the xv day of this instant quhair he remainit, as was allegit, to the xvij day thair of at eftir none. To the quhilk, the said James Castellaw ansorit that he was him self furth of this toun the mest part of all the said tyme and that he knew nocht nor wist nocht that the said Mr Robert was thair the said tyme, nather yit saw him nocht the said tyme, bot confessit that his wyf grantit be him that the said Mr Robertis wyf hade tane ane chalmir fra hir ij or iij dayis befor the said Mr Robertis allegit cuming in his hous and keipit the key thair of with hir self at all tymis and gif the said Mr Robert was in that chalmir or nocht the said speace, the said James Castellaw knew nocht bot verraly he nevir kennit, met nor drink to gang furth of his hous to that chalmir nor na servand of his, for the said Mr Robertis wyf evir dynit and supit in his hall with sic cumpany as was thairin as his wyf schew him. To the quhilk answer the said Margaret Bavarage in hir answer aggreit in all. Farther, the said James was inquiryrit gif he at ony tyme sen the said Mr Robert was excommunicat ligit in his hous in Glasgw, the said James confessit he ligit in his hous sensyn bot his arrand thair was to crave silvir fra the said Mr Robertis wyf and, as the said James allegit, at his thair being nather was the said Mr Robert nor yit his wyf thair in thair hous bot was furth of the toun. Quhilkis answeris the said

minister declairit that the brethrein of the said particular sessioun remittit to the jugementis of the brethrein of this presbytery. The said James Castellaw and his wyf, being now presentlie desyrit to declair the trewth of the saidis accusatiounis, ansorit baithe conforme to the said ministeris report in all thingis without ony discrepance. The brethrein, being ryplie advysit efter long ressoning, findis the said James to have committit ane gret fault in lusing in the said Mr Robertis hous, being excommunicat, and thairby gaif ane gret sclandir to this kirk and the kirk of Glasgw, and thairfor ordanis and decernis him to stand up in the plaice quhair he sittis in the kirk of Striviling quhen the minister callis upone him immediatlie eftir the sermond befoir none and thair publictlie confes he lugit in the said Mr Robertis hous, being excommunicat, and the occasioun that movit him thairto, in the quhilk doing to confes he hes offendit the kirk and sclanderit the same thairby and that on the nixt Sunday that he happinis to be in this toun of Striviling undir the paine of disobedience. And anent the said Mr Robertis allegit being in the said James hous the tyme foirsaid, the moderatour, in name of the brethir, admonesis the said James Castellaw and Margaret Baverage, his spous, nocht to set na chalmir nor gif na key of nane to the said Mr Robertis wyf at na tyme fra this furth, except that the said James serce the samin chalmir daylie gif the said Mr Robert Montgumrie cum thair or nocht, quhome gif he find that he with all diligence thaireftir mak intimatioun of him to sum of the brethir of the ministrie in this toun, with certificatioun and he failze or, in his absence, his wyf that he and his wyf salbe haldin ressavaris and menteinaris of the said Mr Robert being excommunicat and sall sustein disceplein thairfoir.

Thomas Quhytett: The quhilk day compeirit Thomas Quhytet, servand to Thomas Alexander, in the parrochun of Dunblane, (being decernit to be excommunicat for disobedience) and confessit he hade offendit the kirk in his lang disobedience, quhilk he confessit to be onlie of simple ignorance without knowlege of his dewatty and thairfor offrit him self in the will of the kirk. The brethir ordanis the said Thomas to compeir befoir the particular sessioun of the kirk of Dunblane on the xxvj day of this instant and to obey as he salbe commandit be thame undir the pain of excommunicatioun.

Excommunicantis in Dunblane: The brethrein in Striviling, havand commissioun to vesie certan procesis deducit againis excommunicantis in Dunblane, reportit to the brethrein that thai hade veseit the proces of excommunicatioun deducit againis Andro Blakwod in Dunblane, Sir William Blakwod thair, Sir Williame Drummond thair, Elezabeth Carnwethe and Agnes Cowall thair, and hes fund the samin proces ordurlic led and sufficient and thairfor the haill brethir ordanis the said proces to be delyverit to Mr Andro Yung, minister of Dunblane, that he may present the same to the kingis minister that lettres may be rasit thairon according to the ordur.

Mr Robert Montgumrie: The brethrein, undirstandand that Mr Robert Montgumrie lugit and was ressavit in the plaice of Kilbryd all nycht on the xij day of July at evin instant, the lady beand thair, and that he was in Archibald Edmestonis hous in the gait syd and ressavit and interteneit thair, thairfor ordanis Dame Marie Douglas, comptas of Mentayth, and maistres of the said plaice, and the said Archibald Edmestoun to be summond *litteratorie* to answer at the instance of the kirk for the caus foirsaid and to underly the disceplein of the kirk thairfoir under the paine off disobedience.

Patrik Layng: The quhilk day ane summondis beand product dewlie execute and indorsit upone David Lindsay, James Donaldsone, Johnne Archebald and David Bruce of Grein chairgeing thame to have compeirit the said day to beir lell and suithfast witnessing anent the accusationis gevin in againis Patrik Layng and utheris to be gevin in againis him, safar as thai knaw and salbe speirit at thame, ilk persone undir the paine of disobedience, and als chairgeand the said Patrik Layng to compeir the said day and plaice to heir and se the saidis witnessis ressavit, sworne and admittit as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis, the said Patrik Layng compeirand personallie. The saidis witnessis, being oft tymis callit, compeirit nocht. Thairfoir the brethrein ordanis the saidis witnessis to be summond of new *litteratorie* to compeir the penult day of this instant to the effect foirsaid undir the paine of excommunicatioun, the said Patrik warnit thairto *apud acta*.

Robert Andirsone: The quhilk day ane summondis beand product lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Robert Andirsone in Tullibody chairgeing him to have compeirit the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for passing in pilgrimage to Chrystis

woll and using of superstitioun and idolatrie thairat expres againis Godis law undir the paine of excommunicatioun, quhilk Robert being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, thairfor the brethrein ordanis the said Robert Andirson to be summond *litteratorie* to heir and se him self decernit to be excommunicat for his contumacie and malicius disobedience, with certificatioun and he failze the brethrein will proceid and decern him to be excommunicat, as said is.

Anent tryell of bishopsis: The samin day it was reportit to the brethir be Patrik Gillaspie that, be act of the last generall assemblie, this presbytery was ordeinit to proceid in tryell and disceplein againis the bishoppis of Dunblane and Yllis according to thair commissioun gevin to thame of befoir.

McKie and Stewart excommunicat: The brethrein in Striviling, havand commissioun to vesie the admonitionis and sentence of excommunicatioun gevin and pronuncit be Alexander Fargy, minister of Logy, againis James McKie and Jane Stewart, reportit to the remanent brethir that thay fand that the said Alexander hade proceidit ordurle and the samin put in sufficient forme, quhilk was approvit be the brethir quhairof the tennour follwis.

James McKie and Jane Stewart pronuncit excommunicat: Upone Sondag the xix day of May the yeir of God im vc lxxxij yeiris, I, Alexander Fargy, minister of Godis Word at the kirk of Logie, past to the said parroche kirk, at command of ane ordinance of the presbytery of Striviling, chairgeand ilk minister within the boundis of the said presbytery to proceid with the censuris of the kirk againis all adulteraris disobedient within the same boundis that hes nocht past to the last synnodall assemblie haldin in Edinburgh the second day of Aprill last bypast to have ressavit thair injunctionis as thai war ordeinit, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said ordinance of the dett the ix day of Aprill last bypast, and becaus James McKie and Jane Stewart, adulteraris and inhabitaris within the said parrochun of Logie, was ordeinit and promesit to pas to the said last synnodall assemblie to the effect fairsaid and hes failzeit bayth thairintill, thairfor I, at command of the said ordinance, immediatelie eftir the sermond publictlie admonesit the saidis James McKie and Jane Stewart, adulteraris and inhabitaris within the said parrochun, to submit thame selffis to the disceplein of the kirk for thair contumacie and oft disobedience dyvers and sindrie tymis undir the

paine of excommunicatioun, and lykwys I admonesit sum of the elderis in speciall to speik and exhort the saidis personis to submit thame selffis to the disceplein of the kirk undir the said paine and that as for the first admonitioun befor the sentence conforme to the ordur, quhilk I did in presens of the haill pepill to heir Godis Word for the tyme. [*Signed*] Alexander Fargy, minister of Logy, with my hand.

McKie and Stewart, excommunicat: Upone Sondag the xxvj day of May, the yeir of God foirsaid I, Alexander Fargy, minister of the Word of God, past to the said parroche kirk and thair made intimatioun publictlie eftir the sermond that I, accompaneit with Johnne Grahame in Atheray, Andro Henrisone in Lochtburne and Johnne Duncansone in Logy, elderis of the said kirk, past to the personall presens of the said James McKie and Jane Stewart, quhair we privellie and most gentlie exhortit thame to submit thame selffis to the disceplein of the kirk, as said is, and fand na obedience, quhilk the saidis elderis testefeit in presens of the congregatioun, and thairfoir I, according to the ordinance of the brethrein of the said presbytery, publictlie admonesit the saidis personis, as said is, undir the paine of excommunicatioun and that as for the second admonitioun befor the sentence conforme to the ordur, quhilk I did in presens of the haill pepill convenit to heir Godis Word for the tyme. [*Signed*] Alexander Fargy, minister of Logie with my hand.

Upone Sondag the second day of *Junij* the yeir of God foirsaid I, Alexander Fargy, minister of the Word of God, eftir that the foirsaidis elderis and I hade reportit to the brethir of our particular session our privie admonitiounis gevin to the saidis personis togethir with thair obstinacie, I, according to the ordinance of the brethir of the said presbytery, past to the said parroche kirk of Logy and thair inquit the haill elderis of the said kirk, beand present for the tyme, gif the saidis personis or ony of thame hade offrit, be thame selffis or ony uthir in thair namis, obedience unto the kirk, quha ansorit negativellie and thairfoir, immediatlie eftir the sermond, I publictly admonesit the said James McKie and Jane Stewart, as said is, undir the paine of excommunicatioun, and thaireftir prayeris beand made be me with exhortatioun to all the congregatioun to pray for thame and that as for the thrid and last

admonitioun befor the pronouncein of the sentence conform to the ordur, quhilk I did in presens of the haill pepill conveynit to heir Godis Word for the tyme. [*Signed*] Alexander Fargy, minister of Logy, with my hand.

Upone Sonday the xvj day of *Junij* the yeir of God foirsaid, I, Alexander Fargy, minister at the said kirk, past to the said parroche kirk and thair made intimatioun publictlie to the haill congregatioun eftir the sermond that I, accompaneit with the elderis befoir-mentionat, past to the personall presens of the said James McKie and Jane Stewart sen our last privie admonitiounis gevin to thame of befor and admonesit thame privallie of new and maist ernstlie exhortit thame to submit thame selffis to the disceplein of the kirk, as said is, and fand na obedience quhilk the saidis elderis thane testefeit to be of trewth, and lykwys I thane inquiryt the saidis elderis and the remanent eldaris thair present for the tyme gif the saidis personis, or ony of thame, hade offerit obedience to the kirk be thame selffis or ony utheris in thair naimis, quha ansorit negativelie, and als inquiryt gif the saidis personis, or ony utheris in thair naimis, wald thane promeis obedience to the kirk, and trew it is nane compeirit to that effect, and thairfor I, the said minister at command of the brethrein of the said presbytery, denunciit thame and ather of thame excommunicat for thair cryme and contemp foirsaid and delyverit thame ovir in the handis of Sathan to the destructioun of the flesche that the spirit may be saif in the day of the Lord Jesus, according to the Word of God and ordinance of the brethrein of the presbytery foirsaid in all pointis. Quhilk I did in presens of the haill pepill conveynit to heir Godis Word for the tyme, and immediatlie thaireftir I admonesit the said congregatioun and everie ane of thame to abhor the foirsaidis personis, excommunicat as hethinis and publicanis, and to have na kynd of societic with thame lest thai be partakeris of thair sinnis and of the curs of the samin, and this I admonesit thame to be war of, under the paine of the censuris of the kirk to be usit againis sic as hade ony kynd of familiaritie with thame unto the tyme thai war absolvit fra the said sentence and restorit againe to the societic of the kirk. In witnes of the quhilkis, I, the said minister, hes subscriyvit thir my admonitionis and sentence of excommunicatioun pronuncit be me, as said is, with my awin hand as follwis. [*Signed*] Alexander Fargy,

minister of Logy, with my hand. [*In margin*: 21 July 1590, Mr Johnne Davidsonsone receavit James McKie to the societe of the kirk, at command of the presbyterie of Dunblane, quhilk he reported to thame on the 16 of August 1592, as ane act of the said presbyterie beris.]

At Striviling the penult day of July, 1583

Presentes: Mr William Stirling, James Andirsone, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Mr Arthur Futhie, Patrik Gillaspie, Alexander Fargy, Andro Forester, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur of exerceis; Adame, commendatar of Cambuskynneth, Alexander Forester of Garden, Duncane Narne, Mr James Pont, Alexander Patersone, and Robert Alexander, elderis.

William Michell: The quhilk day compeirit William Michell in Coustrie and desyrit the brethrein to gif command to sum minister to bapteis ane bairne of his gottin on Jonet Crystesone, his wyf (as he allegis). The brethrein undirstanding that, as yit, it lyis undiscussit gif the said Jonet may be his lauchfull wyf or nocht, inrespect of adultrie committit be hir of befor by Andro Wilsone, hir lauchfull husband, for the quhilk he obtenit ane decreit of seapration fra hir. Thairfor the brethir ordanis the said William to act caution for him in the buikis of the commissar of Dunblane that he sall separate him self fra the said Jonet Crystesone with all diligence and remane fra hir ay and quhill sentence be pronunceit gif scho may be his lauchfull wyf or nocht undir the paine of xl libis., quhilk beand done the brethir ordanis his bairne to be baptezit.

James Castellaw: The quhilk day it was declairit to the brethrein be James Andirsone, minister at Striviling, that forsamekill as upone the xxij day of July instant James Castellaw was decernit and ordeinit be the brethir to mak repentence in the kirk of Striviling in the plaice quhair he sittis on the nixt Sunday that the said James sould happin to be in this toun, for his lugin in Mr Robert Montgumreis hous, being excommunicat, and trew it is that the said James was in this toun on Sunday last and albeit he was warnit be William Stevinsone, officer, to cum to the kirk the said Sunday and obey the said ordinance, nochttheles the said James Castellaw

disobeyit, thairfor the said minister desyrit the brethrein to advys quhat thai thocht gude to be done thairanent. The brethrein ordanis the said James Castellaw to be summond *litteratorie* to mak repentence according to the formar ordinance upon Sunday nixt, viz., the iiij day of August nixt tocum or ellis compeir befor the brethrein on the vj of August nixt and schaw ane ressonabill caus of his absence on Sunday last, viz., the xxviii day of July instant, undir the paine of disobedience.

Patrik Layng: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit deulie execute and indorsit upone David Lindsay, James Donaldsone, Johnne Archebald and David Bruce of Grein, chairgeing thame to compeir the said day to beir lell and suithfast witnessing anent the accusatiounis gevin in againis Patrik Layng and utheris to be gevin againis him safar as thai knaw or salbe speirit at thame ilk persone undir the paine of excommunicatioun, the said Patrik Layng beand personallie present, compeirit the saidis David Lindsay, James Donaldsone and Johnne Archebald quha was ressavit, sworne and admittit and examinat as thair depositionis beris.

Patrik Layng: The samin day the said Patrik Layng beand accusit gif he hade exercisit ony functioun in the ministrie sen he was suspendit, the said Patrik ansorit and confessit he hes continewallie sensyne teichit, baptezit and mareit personis, as of befor inrespect of his appellatioun. Farder, the said Patrik being desyrit, yit as off befor, to declair the trewth the gif he tuik ony silvir for making of mariagis, the said Patrik confessit he takis na thing for making of mariagis bot sum tymis the brydell lawein and sum tymis the half of the brydell lawein. Farder, being desyrit, yit as of befor, to declair the trewth the gif he takis ony silvir for baptezin of bairnis or nocht, the said Patrik denyis *simpliciter* that he takis silvir for baptezin of bairnis ather gottin in adultrie, fornicatioun or lauchfull. The brethir ordanis utheris witnessis to be summond *litteratorie* to the vj day of August for farther tryell of the said mater, the said Patrik warnit thairto *apud acta*.

Johnne Crystesone, adulterar in Strogayth: The quhilk day compeirit Johnne Crystesone, parrochinnar in Stragayth, spous to Jonet Allane, and grantis him to have gottin ane bairne in adultrie by his wyf on Jonet Mwll, for the quhilk caus the said Johnne is ordeinit to pas to the nixt provinciall assemblie of this province to be holden

in Edinburgh the first day of October nixt thair to ressave injunctionis to be injoinit to him for his said offence and to obey the same undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

Elezabeth Mwle, adultrix in Strogayth: The samin day compeirit Elezabeth Mwle and grantis hir to have borne ane bairn gottin with hir in adultrie be James Grahame in Bardrellis, husband to [blank], and confessit that Sir David Murie, at the command of Mr Johnne Hommill, baptezit the said bairne in Ochtirardur kirk half ane yeir syne or thairby, hir self beand present, for the quhilk the said Elezabeth is ordeinit to pas to the nixt provincially assemblie of this province to be haldin in Edinburgh the first day of October nixt, thair to ressave injunctionis to be injoinit to hir for the said adultrie and to obey the same undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

Christane Jarvie: The quhilk day, it was schawin to the brethir be Patrik Gillaspie, minister at S. Ninianis kirk, that quhair Cristane Jarvie in Polmais, ane of the parrochinnaris of the said kirk, beand excommunicat, offiris obedience to the kirk and desyris to be ressavit againe amangis the societie of the faithfull. The brethir gevis commissioun and libertie to Patrik Gillaspie and Alexander Patersone, notar, or ony of thame to confer with the said Cristane and mak hir ane bill as scho desyris to gif in to the brethirein.

Adultrix in S. Ninianis parrochun: The samin day compeirit Agnes Moderall, spous to Johnne Hall in Drusaill, and confessit scho was lauchfullie mareit with hir said husband bot allegis that albeit hir said husband lay dyvers tymis with hir yit he hade nevir carnall dell with hir and now confessis scho is with bairne gottin on hir be William Campbell dwelland at the mure miln, and being accusit be the moderatour gif scho plengyet to ony persone that hir husband hade nocht carnall dell with hir befor hir carnall copulatioun with the said William Campbell, the said Agnes grantis scho confessit nocht befor the said tyme. The brethir findis the said Agnes to have committit adultrie with the said William Campbell by hir husband and thairfor ordanis hir to pas to the nixt provincially assemblie of the province to be haldin in Edinburgh the first day of October nixt thair to ressave injunctionis to be injoinit to hir for the said adultrie and to obey the same undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

At Striviling the vj day of August, 1583

Presentes: Mr William Stirling, James Andersone, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Arthur Futhie, Robert Mentayth, Michael Lermonthe, Alexander Fargy, Mr Alexander Chisholme, ministeris; William Stirling, Alexander Balvaird, rederis; Mr James Pont, elder; and Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur of exerceis.

Robert Andirson: The quhilk day compeirit Robert Andirson in Tullibody and grantis him to have bein disobedient to the chairgis of the kirk bot allegis he did the samin of ignorance, for the quhilk he offeris him in the will of the kirk, and als confessis that he at command of Bessie Hendirson, his mother, tuik his gait in name of his mothir in pilgramage to Chrystis woll for ane discas scho had in hir leggis and body thru the quhilk scho mycht nocht travell and denyis that he drank of the walter thair of nor yit did ony thing thairat, bot allegit that quhowson he saw the said woll he belevit weill thair was na help to his mothur to be gottin thair and thairfor returnit hame againe nocht doing na thing thairat. The brethir being advysit with the said Robertis confessioun findis him self and his mothur to have bein deliberat in mynd to have committit idolatrie and superstitioun at the said woll, for the quhilk and his pilgramage takein, the brethir ordanis him and his said mothur to mak publict repentence in thair parroche kirk of Tullibody according to the ordur on the nixt Sonday that Alexander Fargy sall requyr thame thairto undir the paine of disobedience.

The quhilk day all the brethrein within this presbytery ar inhibit to ministrat baptisme fra this furth aff the Sonday in landwart and aff the sermond day in brugh ay and quhill the brethrein be certifeit of actis of the generall assemblie made thairanent.

James Castellaw: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit deulie execute and indorsit chairgeing James Castellaw to compeir the said day to declair ane ressonable caus of his absence and nocht obeying of our ordinance on the xxviiij day of July last as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis, compeirit the said James personallie and schew to the brethir ane caus of his absence the said day quhilk was fund be the brethir ressonablee. Farder, the said James promesis to mak repentence in the plaice quhair he sittis within the kirk of Striviling for lugin in Mr Robert Montgumreis

hous being excommunicat on Sunday immediatlie preceeding the fest of Michalmes, viz., the xxij day of September and satisfie the brethreinis ordinance in all pointis made on the xxiiij day of July last or sonner on ane Sunday that it sall happin the said James to adverteis the minister or reder of Striviling on the nycht befor, quhilk promeis the said James is ordeinit to keip under the paine of disobedience.

Patrik Layng: The samin day compeirit Patrik Gillaspie and producit ane summondis deulie execute and indorsit on James Smyth in Elphinstoun, chairgeing him to compeir the said day to beir lell and suithfast witnessing anent certane accusatiounis layit againis Patrik Layng insafar as he knawis or salbe speirit at him under the paine of disobedience. The said Patrik Layng beand personallie present, compeirit the said James Smyth quha was ressavit, sworne and admittit and examinat as his depositioun beris. Eftir quhais admissioun the said Patrik departit fra the sessioun and beand chairgit to remaine to answer at the instance of Patrik Gillaspie, his accuser, under the paine of [blank] maist contemptuouslie disobeyit the said chairge and past his way.

The samin day, the brethrein undirstandand be Patrik Layngis awin confessioun that he hes contravenit thair suspensioun in teiching, mareing, ministratioun of baptisme continuallie sen he was suspendit as of befor, thairfor the brethrein commandis and ordanis Robert Mentayth, minister at Alvayth, to pas to the parroche kirk of Clakmannan on Sunday nixt the xj day of August, and thair publictly to mak intimatioun to the parrochinnaris of the said kirk of Clakmannan of the suspending of the said Patrik Layng fra all functioun in the kirk, and that he command and chairge the saidis parrochinnaris in name of the eternall God and his kirk that thay na manir of way acknowlege the said Patrik fra this furthe as ane man havand ony offeice or auctoritie in the ministrie nor crave ony benefeit of the kirk fra him ay and quhill he be lauchfullie restorit againe to his offeice under the paine of the censuris of the kirk to be execute againis thame and ilk ane of thame that dois in the contrar.

The quhilk day the brethrein ordanis Patrik Layng to be summond *litteratorie* to compeir befor the provinciall assemblie of the presbytereis of Edinbrugh, Dalkayth, Striviling and Linlythquow to be haldin in Edinburgh the first day of October nixt to heir and

se the jugementis of the brethrein of the said assemblie pronunciant the suspensioun of the said Patrik Layng fra all functioun in the kirk and his contravening of the same, his takin of silver oft and dyvirs tymis for compleiting of mariagis and his disobedience to this presbytery in passing fra the sessioun thair of the maist disobedientlie eftir he was chairgit to remane and to heir and se thair auctoritie interponit to the brethreinis proceedingis thairintill undir the paine of excommunicatioun, with certificatioun and he failze the brethir of the said assemblie will proceid againis him according to the Word of God and disciplin of the kirk, havand the warrand thair of thairin.

Johnne Broun: The quhilk day being assignit to the brethrein in Striviling to report thair jugementis to the remanent brethrein of the presbytery thair of on the declamatiounis and vers productit be Johnne Broun on the thesis gevin to him, reportit that thai jugit be the said productionis and privie confrence hade be the maistir of the grammir scholl of Striviling with the said Johnne that he was instructit ressonable weill in the grundis of the Latein grammir and was ablle to teiche and proffeit the youthe thairin and that he was (as appeirit to thame) of gude inclinatioun and abilitie to proffeit him self and of a gude will daylie mair and mair to incres in the knowlege of his professioun. The said Johnne Broun compeirand personallie, the haill brethir present eftir deliberat advysment admittis him to teiche Latein grammir at the kirk of Strogayth quhair he is presentlie or in ony uthir plaice quhair he may proffeit the kirk of God in teiching of the youthe.

At Striviling the xiiij day of August, 1583

Presentes: Mr William Stirling, James Andirsone, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Andro Yung, Robert Mentayth, Mr Adame Merschell and Mr Johnne Campbell, ministeris; William Stirling, reder; Mr James Pontt, elder; and Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur of exerceis.

Patrik Layng: The quhilk day Robert Mentayth, minister of Alvayth, beand inquiryt be the moderatour gif he hade made intimatioun at the kirk of Clakmannan of Patrik Layngis suspentioun according to ane ordinance made in the last sessioun or nocht, the said Robert ansorit that he, upone Sunday the xj day of August

instant, past to the parroche kirk of Clakmannan and thair publictie to the auditour convenit for the tyme made dew intimatioun to the parrochinnaris thair that Patrik Layng, thair minister, was lauchfullie suspendit fra all functioun of the kirk be the brethrein of the presbytery of Striviling and that he chairgit all and sindrie the parrochinnaris of the said kirk in name of the eternall God and his kirk that thai na manir of way acknowlege the said Patrik fra that furth as ane man havand ony offeice or auctoritie in the ministrie nor yit crave ony benefeit of the kirk fra him ay and quhill he be lauchfullie restorit againe to his offeice undir the paine of the censuris of the kirk to be execute againis thame and ilk ane of thame that dois in the contrar, and becaus the laird of Clakmannan, principall man in the toun thair of, was absent furth of the kirk thairfor he thair-effir past to the personall presens of the said David Bruce of Grein and Gilbert Coustoun, elderis in the said parrochun, and made intimatioun to thame of the suspentioun of the said Patrik Layng as is abone wrettin in all pointis, and this he did befor thir witnes David Mentayth, servand to my lord of Mar, Alexander Hamiltoun, Johnne Hendirsone and Thomas Coustoun.

Mr Johnne Campbell: The quhillk day beand assignit to the brethrein to pronounce thair jugementis anent the accusatiounis layit againis Mr Johnne Campbell, bischop of the Iyllis, and als appointit to the brethrein of the presbytery of Glasgw to report to the brethrein heir quhat thay find be tryell tane be thame (according to the brethreinis desyr) of the said Mr Johnnis procedingis in thair partis anent the heddis conteinit in the act of the generall assembleie. Quhillk report of the presbytery of Glasgw is nocht as yit cumit, thairfor the brethrein ordanis the scribe to wret to Glasgw of new and to desyr the brethrein thair to send thair report anent the premissis heir againe the xx day of this instant to the quhillk day the brethrein continewis the pronouncein of thair jugementis anent the accusatiounis layit againis the said Mr Johnne, he warnit thairto *apud acta*.

At Striviling the xx day of August, 1583

Presentes: Mr William Striviling, James Andirsone, Patrik Gillaspie, Michael Lermonte, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Alexander Fargy, Mr Andro Yung, Mr Johnne Campbell, ministeris;

Mr James Pont, Robert Alexander, elderis; William Stirling; Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur of exerceis; Mr Johnne Broun.

Mr Johnne Campbell: The quhilk day thair was productit be ane barer direct fra the presbytery of Glasgw ane testificatioun concerning the lyf and conversatioun of Mr Johnne Campbell, bischop of Yllis, quhairof the tennour follwis: xvj *Augusti*, 1583. The quhilk day the moderatour and presbytery of Glasgw eftir the reding of this your godlie request fyndis no thing at all in lyf and conversatioun of the bischop of the Yllis in this our cuntrie bot honestie lykwys as your writt proporttis. Subscryvit, as follwis at the comand of the said brethrein. *Sic subscribitur* Wylie, *scriba dictorum moderatoris et presbyterii Glasguensis sua manu.*

Mr Johnne Campbellis absolvitur: The quhilk day being assignit be the brethrein of the elderschip foirsaid to pronounce thair decreit and declaratour anent the tryell of Mr Johnne Campbell, bischop of Yllis, tuiching his doctrein, ministratioun of the sacramentis, negligence of preiching and disceplein, hanting and frequenting the cumpanie of excommunicat personis, waisting of the patrimony of the kirk, setting of takis againis the actis of the kirk, geving colatiounis of beneficis againis the tennour of the same actis and finallie for geving sclandir ony wayis in lyf and conversatioun, conform to ane act of the generall assemblie of the det the xiiij day of October, *anno* etc., lxxxij yeiris, the said Mr Johnne beand personallie present, the foirsaidis brethrein being assemblit, eftir publict edickis beand lauchfullie execute chairgeand all and sindrie that wald object or oppone againis the said Mr Johnne tuiching the premisis to have comepeirit at ane certane day bypast to that effect and eftir depositionis of dyvers famus witnes togethir with the report of the elderschip of Glasgw anent the foirsaidis, and being ryplie advysit thairwith absolvit and absolvis the said Mr Johnne fra all and sindrie pointis and artickillis conteinit in the foirsaid act of the generall assemblie and decernis him quyt thairfra, excep the disjunctioun and separatioun of the abbacie of Ycolumkill fra the bischoprik of the Yllis laitlie procurit be the said Mr Johnne as als ane confirmatioun gevin be him to the Erl of Argyll of the landis of Skirkennyth quhilkis befoir was sett in fefi be Mr Johnne Carswall, his predicessur, as he allegis, and continewis the decisioun of the samin to the nixt generall assemblie of the kirk to be haldin in

Edinbrugh the x day of October nixt to be declairit gif the said separatioun and confirmatioun or ony ane of thame be delapidatioun of the patrimony of the kirk or nocht. Becaus dyvers dyettis beand observit in taking of the said tryell of the said Mr Johnne, it was onnawayis varefeit nor provin to the said elderschip that he was culpablie of ony of the artickillis conteinit in the said act of the generall assemblie alwayis suspendand the declaratioun of the twa pointis befor exceptit to the said generall assemblie, conform to the judgement of the synnodall assemblie of the said elderschip, and to that effect the said brethrein hes warnit and chairgit the said Mr Johnne to compeir befor the generall assemblie to be haldin, day and plaice foirsaid, to heir and sie diclaratur gevin anent the twa pointis abonespecefeit.

Countas off Montayth: The quhilk day ane summondis beand productit deulie execute and indorsit upone Marie, Comptas of Menteyth, chairgeing hir to compeir the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for speiking with Mr Robert Montgumrie, beand excommunicat, interteneing him in hir hous, eating and drinking with him, compeirit the said Comptas of Montayth and confessis Mr Robert Montgumrie was in hir hous bot allegis scho knew nocht that the said Mr Robert was excommunicat and that his wyf come to hir plaice befor him self and assurit hir that the said Mr Robert was aggreit with the kingis grace and the kirk in all thingis excep ane quhilk wald be lykwys aggreit, quhilk excommunicatioun gif sche hade knawin affermit that he sould nocht have cumit in na plaice quhair scho was and Michael Lermonthe, thene minister at Kilbryd kirk, being askit be the moderatour gif he intemeit the excommunicatioun of the said Mr Robert Montgumrie in the said Comptas parroche kirk of Kilbryd or nocht answerit negativelie. Inrespect of the quhilk nonintimatioun and misknowledge hade be the said Comptas of the said excommunicatioun, the moderatour in name of the brethir onlie admonesit the said Comptas nocht to commone with the said Mr Robert nor interteine him na manir of way frathisfruth, quhill he be absolvit fra the said sentence of excommunicatioun undir the paine of the censuris of the kirk to be execute againis hir maist scherplie gif scho do in the contrar, quhilk admonitioun the said Comptas promisit to obey.

Laird of Tirinteran [sic]: The quhilk [day], forsamekill as the brethrein understandis that the communioun was ministrat in the kirk of Kippen on Sonday the xvij day of August and that the parrochinnaris thair of was examinat of befoir and as thai ar informit that Alexander Levingstoun of Tintirane, Margaret Grahame, his dochter in law, Alexander Frissall, Cristane Wod and Issobell Forester, servandis to the said Alexander, and parrochinnaris of Kippen, presentit nocht thame selffis to the examinatioun nor yit to the communioun and sacrament of the Lordis Supper the tyme of the ministratioun thair of the said day, thairfore the brethrein ordanis to summond the saidis personis *litteratorie* to compeir befoir the brethrein to answer at the instance of the kirk for the caus foirsaid and to underly discipline thairfoir ilk persone undir the paine of disobedience.

Mr Andro Grahame: The quhilk day the brethrein undirstanding that upone the xvj day of Aprill last bypast Mr Andro Grahame, bischop of Dunblane, was decernit and ordeinit be thame to have productit befoir the brethir of the generall assemblie on the xxv day of the said moneth of Aprill ane auctentick register of the haill fewis and takis sett be him of the fruictis of the said bischoprik sen his entires thairto to be sein and considerit be the brethrein of the said assemblie and in speciall the fewis and takis sett to my lord Grahame, the Maister of Mar and Maister of Levingstoun, and trew it is thair was na thing done in the said assemblie thairanent bot ordeinit the brethrein of this presbytery to proceid in tryell and disceplein againis the said Mr Andro according to the commissioun gevin to thame of befoir, thairfor the brethrein ordanis the said Mr Andro to be summond *litteratorie* to compeir befoir thame to heir and se the said mater proceid quhair it left, viz., to produce befoir thame ane auctentik register of the haill fewis and takis sett be him of the fruictis of the said bischoprik sen his enteres thairto and in speciall the fewis and takis particularlie befoir expremitt to be sein and considerit be thame and to heir and se thair jugementis pronuncit anent the same, undir the paine of disobedience.

Issobell Grahame, allegit adultrix: The samin day compeirit Cristane McInturnur, quha allegis hir mareit on Finlay McVoreist in the kirk of Drimmen be Sir Neill Mentayth, reder at the said kirk for the tyme, and for verefeing quhair of scho productit the said

rederis testimoniall subscriyvit with his hand and allegit farther that hir said husband lyis in adultrie with Issobell Grahame, dwelland with the laird Dormond within the parrochun of Port and dochter to umquhill Thomas Grahame, and thairfor desyrit the brethrein to tak ordur with the said adultrie committit, as said is. The brethrein ordanis the said Issobell Grahame to be summond *litteratorie* to heir and se hir self decernit to have committit the said adultrie and to undirly the disceplein of the kirk thairfoir undir the paine of disobedience.

At Striviling the xxvij day of August, 1583

Presentes: Mr William Stirling, James Andirsone, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Andro Yung, Mr Arthur Futhie, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Robert Mentayth, Michaell Lermonthe, ministeris; Mr James Pont, Duncane Narne, elderis; and Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothir of exerceis.

James Blakwod: The quhilk day ane summondis beand productit deulie execute and indorsit upone James Blakwod and William Thomesone in Dunblane chairgeing thame to compeir the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for speiking, eatting and drinking with Sir William Blakwod and Sir William Drummond, personis being excommunicat, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis, compeirit the said James Blakwod personallie, quha being accusit for eatting and drinking with Sir William Blakwod, beand excommunicat, ansorit that he nathir eat, drank nor commonit with him in his awin hous nor in na uther hous excep in the housis of my lord Graham and the laird of Tullibairdin or in sic uthir plaicis quhair he mycht nocht eschew his cumpany, and tuiching the said Sir Williamis viveris and uthir necisaris neciser to him in Dunblane, the said James confessis he send thame furth of his awin hous to the said Sir Williamis chalmir and thaireftir the said James productit ane answer in wret, as it beris in the self. The brethrein tuik to advys with the said answer productit to the second Tuysday eftir the nixt generall assemblie and grantis lycence to the said James to send the said Sir Williamis neciseris to his awin chalmir allanirlie and him self to confer with him to the said day allanirlie sum tymis for calling of him fra that damnable idolatrie, in the

quhilk he is, to the trew licht of Chrystis evangell, and that the said James report the said day quhat he proffettis the said Sir William be his confrence and that he compeir the said day to heir the brethreinis jugementis pronuncit on his answer productit.

William Thomeson: Compeirit the said William Thomesone and being accusit for commoning, eatting and drinking with Sir William Drummond, beand excommunicat, the said William denyit the haill accusatioun *simpliciter* bot confessis he sendis the said Sir William Drummondis neciseris to his awin chalmir to him bot gangis nocht to him himself, quhilk the brethir gevis lycence to the said William to do in tymis cuming, provyding he nather eat, drink nor commone with him.

Andro Broun: The samin day compeirit Andro Broun in Dunblane and confessis that he was passand to faiche ane elnwand and be accident met with Sir William Drummond, excommunicat, and spak to him, for the quhilk the said Andro is ordinit to stand up in his awin sett in the kirk of Dunblane quhair he sittis quhen the minister callis his name and grant he sclanderit the kirk in speiking to the said Sir William and offendit thairin on the nixt Sunday in tyme of sermond and is admonesit nocht to do the lyk in tymis cuming.

The quhilk day compeirit Andro Crumbie in Dachirlie, parro-chinnar of Muthill, and confessis carnall copulatioun with Margaret Stalkar and that the said Margaret confessit to him that scho was mareit with Andro Dune and thaireftir was lauchfullie partit fra him in Sanctandrus. The brethir ordanis Mr Alexander Chisholm to try gif the said allegit separatioun be in veritie or nocht and quhat he findis thairby to report to the brethrein on the [blank] day of [blank] to the effect the brethir may juge gif the said Andro Crumbie hes committit adultrie or fornicatioun with the said Margaret Stalkar.

James Hudson, *adulterar*: The quhilk day ane summondis beand productit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone James Hudson, adulterar in Alvayth, chargeing him to compeir the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for his disobedience in nocht passing to the last synnodall assemblee of this province, nather yit the uther synnodall assemblee proceeding the samin, to have ressavit

his injunctiōis for adultrie committit be him with Issobell Fargy, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis, compeirit the said James and grantis his disobedience thruch misknawlege of the dayis quhen the said assembleis was haldin be his foryetfulness [*sic*], for the quhilk he submittis him self in the will of the kirk. The brethrein commandis and ordanis him to pas and compeir befor the nixt provinciall assembleie of this province to be haldin in Edinburgh the first day of October nixt thair to ressave the injunctiōis to be injonit to him for his said adultrie and to obey thame undir the paine of excommunicatioun. [*In margin*: On the xxviiij of Januar 1583, compeirit James Hudson withinwritin and confessit that he past to the synnodall assembleie heir specefeit and satisfeit this ordinance in all pointis, quhilk Robert Mentayth, his minister, testefeit in all pointis, and thairfor the brethir is contentit with him and consentis that ane act actit in the commissaris buik of Striviling of caution for him be deleit.]

Tintirrane: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit deulie execute and indorsit upone Alexander Levingstoun of Tintirane, Margaret Grahame, his dochtir in law, Alexander Frissall, Cristan Wod and Issobell Forester, servandis to the said Alexander, chairgeing thame to compeir the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for nocht presenting thame selffis to the examinatioun amangis the rest of the parrochinnaris of Kippen befor the ministratioun of the communioun in the kirk thair of and for nocht presenting thame selffis to the communioun, the sacrament of the Lordis Supper, ministrat in the said kirk on Sonday the xviiij day of August instant, thairby contemnand the same and to underly disceplein thairfoir ilk persone undir the paine of disobedience, quhilkis personis being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, thairfor the brethrein ordanis thame to be summond of new to the effect foirsaid undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

At Striviling the iij day of September, 1583

Presentes: James Andirson, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Alexander Fargy, Robert Mentayth, Mr Andro Yung, Mr Adame Merschell, ministeris; and Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur of exerceis.

Mr Andro Grahame: The quhilk day ane summond is beand producit deulie execute and indorsit upone Mr Andro Grahame, bischop of Dunblane, chairgeing him to have compeirit the said day to heir and se the brethrein proceed quhair thay left anent the tryell of him according to the act of the generall assemblie, viz., to produce befor thame the said day ane auctentik register of the haill fewis and takis sett be him of the fruictis of the said bischoprik sen his enteres thairto and in speciall the fewis and takis set to my lord Grahame, the Maister of Mar and the Maister of Levingstoun to be sein and considerit be thame and to heir and se thair jugementis pronuncit anent the same undir the paine of disobedience, quhilk Mr Andro being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, thairfor the brethrein ordanis the said Mr Andro to be summond of new *litteratorie* to the effect foirsaid undir the paine of excommunicatioun, with certificatioun and he compeir nocht the brethrein will proceed according to Goddis Word and the disceplein of the kirk.

Prophanaris of the Sabbothe, Johnne Drummond, Patrik Wilsone: The quhilk day, it was meinit to the brethrein be Mr Alexander Chisholme, minister at Muthill, that upone Sondag the first of this instant he beand instantlie passand in the kirk of Muthill to mak the sermond, Johnne Drummond *alias* Denmark, and Patrik Wilsone drawis swordis in the kirkyaird and thairby makis trubill amangis the haill congregatioun, prophanis the Sabboth day thru the quhilk the maist part of the said congregatioun war withdrawin and hauldin fra the sermond to the grit hinderance of Godis glorie and evill exampill to utheris to do the lyk. The brethrein ordanis the saidis personis to be summond *litteratorie* to answer at the instance of the kirk for the caus foirsaid and to undirly disceplein thairfoir, ilk persone under the paine of disobedience.

Patrik Layng: The quhilk day Patrik Layng being desyrit to declair gif he hes baptizit ony bairnis gottin in adultrie or fornicatioun (the kirk nocht beand satisfieit with thair parentis) sen he was last accusit or nocht, and in speciall gif he baptizit Margaret Bruce bairne gottin on hir in adultrie, as is allegit, be Robert Bruce of Clakmannan, the said Patrik confessis he baptizis bairnis lauchfullie gottin and teichis as he usit of befor, inrespect of his appellatioun fra the brethreinis jugementis, bot denyis *simpliciter* the baptizein of ony bairnis unlauchfullie gottin sen the tyme foirsaid.

Robert Fogo: The quhilk day compeirit Robert Fogo in Doun, reder at the kirk of Kilmadok, and offirit him self to be tryit in his reding and of his lyf and conversatioun as he was ordeinit on the iiij day of *Junij* last bypast, the moderatour in name of the brethir askit the said Robert quhy he compeirit nocht on the xxv day of the said moneth of *Junij* as he was thane ordeinit to have gevin ane tryell of his redein and to have hard and sein tryell of his lyf and conversatioun. The said Robert ansorit that sen the said iij day of *Junij* he mycht nocht cum in this toun ontrublit be warding or uthirways for certane mony addettit be ane man in Mentayth for quhome he became cautioner to ane man in this toun quhill now that he hes aggreit with the man quhom to the silvir was awand, quhilk nocht onlie wald have bein trubill to him bot also sclanderus to the kirk he berand office in the same, quhilk excuse allegit be the said Robert was knawin be sum of the brethir present to be trew and thairfor the brethrein dispensis with the said Robertis absence the said day and warnis him *apud acta* to compeir on the x day of September instant to gif ane tryell of his reding and to heir and se tryell tane of his lyf and conversatioun, undir the paine of deprivation.

At Striviling the x day of September, 1583

Presentes: Mr William Stirling, James Andirsone, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Andro Yung, Mr Arthur Futhie, Alexander Fargy, Robert Mentayth, Michael Lermonte, ministeris; William Stirling, Robert Fogo, rederis; Alexander Forester of Garden, elder, and William Norwall, elder; Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur of exerceis.

Robert Fogo deprivit simpliciter: The quhilk day being assignit to Robert Fogo, reder at the kirk of Kilmadok, to compeir and gif ane tryell of his reiding and to heir and se tryell tane of his lyf and conversatioun, compeirit the said Robert personallie to quhom was cassin up ane chaptur in the New Testament and commandit to reid the same and eftir reiding of ane portioun thair of thair was gevin to him twa prayeris in the psalme buik to reid. Eftir reiding of the quhilkis, the brethrein being ryplie advysit findis the said Robert Fogo can nocht proffeit the kirk of God be his reiding

becaus he reidis nocht distinctlie, keipis na point in his reiding nor undirstandis nocht quhat he reidis, for the quhilk caus, and for ministratioun of the sacrament of baptisme and mariage without lauchfull admissioun thairto, as his confessioun thairanent on the xxj day of May last at lynthe beris and the brethreinis jugement thairon pronuncit on the iiij day of Junij last, and for baptezain of bairnis, ane gottin in adultrie and uthir in fornicatioun (the kirk nocht beand satisfieit with thair parenttis) againis the actis of the generall assemblie. Thairfor the haill brethrein jugit the said Robert Fogo worthie to be deposit and deposis him *simpliciter* fra reiding in the kirk of God and all functioun thairin and exerceis of ony part of the ministrie thair of at all tymis fra thisfurthe, quhilk depositioun is presentlie intimat to the said Robert, beand personallie present.

Concerning adulteraris: The brethrein ordanis to summond the haill adulteraris convict within the boundis of this presbytery that hes nocht as yit endit thair haill injunctionis to compeir befor the provinciall assemblie of the presbyteriis of Edinburgh, Dalkayth, Striviling and Linlythquow to be haldin in Edinburgh the first day of October nixt, thair to ressave thair injunctionis and sum of thame to end thair injunctionis in linning clathis as the copy of the summondis sall declair unto thame.

At Striviling the xvij day of September, 1583

Presentes: Mr William Stirling, James Andirson, Johnne Duncanson, Alexander Fargy, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Mr Andro Yung, Mr Arthur Futhie and Michael Lermonthe, ministeris; Alexander Forester of Garden, Umphra Cunynghame, Mr James Pont and Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur of exerceis.

The quhilk day Patrik Gillaspie and Alexander Fargy product thair buikis of disceplein to be veseit be the brethrein.

Margaret Gib, adultrix: The samin day compeirit Margaret Gib in Stirling and grantis hir mareit on Alexander Gibsone thair and confessis hir to have borne ane bairne gottin on hir in adultrie be umquhill Alexander Johnesone, messenger, as scho allegis, for the quhilk the brethrein ordanis hir to pas to the nixt provinciall assemblie of this province to be haldin in Edinburgh the first day

of October nixt, thair to ressave injunctionis to be injonit to hir for the said adultrie and to obey thame undir the paine of excommunicatioun, and becaus it is allegit the said fathir of hir bairne be fengzeit and nocht of veretie, thairfor the brethrein ordanis the minister and sessioun of the kirk of Striviling to try befor thame quha is the richt fathir thair of that thaireftir ordur may be tane with him (gif he be alyve) as effeiris. Attour, the brethrein ordanis and commandis the minister of Striviling to bapteis hir said bairne, scho findand cautioun of befor to obey and satisfie the kirk for hir said offence in all thingis undir the paine of x merkis mony.

At Striviling the xxiiij day of September, 1583

Presentes: Mr William Stirling, James Andirson, Patrik Gillaspie, Michael Lermont, Robert Mentayth, Alexander Fargy, Mr Andro Yung, Thomas Swintoun, Mr Adame Merschell, Mr James Pont, elder; Mr. Alexander Iule, ane brothur of exerceis.

Johnne Clark, a man slayer: The quhilk day compeirit Johnne Clark in Waster Corscaplie within the parrochun of Dunblane and grantis him on ane suddentie be negligence to have slaine Williame Robertson thair on the xxv day of August, for the quhilk he is sorie fra his hairt and hes obteinie remissione fra the kingis majestie and hes satisfieit the partie thairfor. The brethrein ordanis the said Johnne to compeir befor the nixt provincially assemble of this province to be haldin in Edinburgh the first day of October nixt thair to ressave injunctionis to be injonit to him for the said slauchtir and to obey thame undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

Mr Andro Grahame: The quhilk day Mr Andro Grahame, bischop of Dunblane, beand summond, the moderator producit ane writte of his direct to the brethrein berand his excuis of the noncomperance this day, quhair of the tennour follwis.

God blis you all with his Holie Spirit thruch Jesus Christ our only Mediatour.

Brethrein, I ressavit your godlie ordinance chairgein me to be thair at you in Striviling the xxiiij of this instant to produce the auctentik copeis of the fewis and takis sett sen my intromissioun. First, as to the day appointit to me seing that yistirday I ressavit your command, it lyes nocht in my habilitie to keip the same bayth

inrespect of the far distance of the plaice, and alsua that of accident my hors ar presentlie absent frome me besyd Dunnotar. As to the uther point concerning the production, I have promesit alreddie befor your wisdomes to do the samin and sall, Godwilling, satisfie you thairintill gif that ye think expedient to grant me sufficient tyme quhairby I may recovir the copeis out of the handis of thame that hes thame presentlie, quhilk I dout nocht to performe betuix and the xx day of October nixt, swa that as I have hethirtillis reverencit the kirkis ordinancis, I wald alwayis now in this caice wis you to juge of me cheritable: for God is my witnes quhow sair againis my will I was careit away ather to prejugie the patrimony of the kirk or to molest ony persone in thair roumis. The pruiif heiroy is manifest in that I regairdit nocht to incur the indignatioun of my cheif be production of ane oblegatioun befor the lordis quhairby the present possessuris can nocht be trublit for thair lyftymes. Yit in this I purge nocht my self, and meikil les in ony uther pairt of my calling: bot grantis me the first of thame that ar sclanderus or negligent alwayis I do submit my self with modestie to your jugementis gif that ony wayis thair hes bein fund in my walking befor you ather stuburnnes, arrogancie, craft or curiositie as sindrie utheris of this odius name hes declairit thame selffis (quhilk I lament) to the grit disquyetnes of Christis kirk, flattering of the cheif men of this cuntrie, exaltatioun of thame selffis above thair dewatie. Swa hoping that your wisdomes will pondir diligentlie and prudentlie with your selffis this caice of myne as it standis, I lippen that rather of your dewtiful cheritie ye will minister unto me that is cassin doun justlie by sindrie visitatiounis of the Lord occasioun of confort nor mater of infame and reproche quhilk salbe mair grevous a grit deall to my conscience nor the los of quhatsumevir uther warldlie benefeit appertening to the body. Swa recommendis you all unto the saiffgaird of the Lord Jesus, that mercifull juge of his elect and penitent, bot feirfull to the reprobate and thame that can nocht repent. Off Morphy the xxj of September, 1583. I purpois with Goddis graice to be in Dunblane this nixt Fryday or Setterday at the farthest. *Sic subscribitur*, your wisdomes loving and maist obedient in the Lord Jesus, Andro Grahame, minister att Dunblane.

The brethrein, inrespect of the said wreting product, continewis

the pronouncein of thair jugementis in the said Mr Andro Grahamis mater to the viij day of October nixttocum.

At Striviling the viij day of October, 1583

Presentes: Mr William Striviling, James Andirson, Patrik Gillaspie, Michael Lermont, Mr Andro Yung, Mr Arthur Futhie, Alexander Fargie, ministeris; Mr Duncane Nevein, Alexander Balvaird, rederis; Mr James Pont and Umphra Cunynghame, elderis.

Mr Andro Grahame: The quhilk day the brethrein, being advysit with the proces deducit befor thame againis Mr Andro Grahame, bischop of Dunblane, concerning his tryell of certane heddis conteinit in ane act of the generall assembleie of the dett the xiiij day of October *anno* etc., lxxxij yeiris as the samin beris in the self, findis the said Mr Andro gilty in thir heddis follwing, that is to say, of negligence in doctrein and disceplein, waisting of the patrimony of the kirk, setting of takis againis the actis of the kirk, and as to the rest of the heddis conteinit in the said act, findis the said Mr Andro innocent, and swa inrespect of the heddis quhairof he is fund gilty, findis him to have incurit the puneishment conteinit in the actis of the generall assembleie made thairanent, and thairfor ordanis our brethir, commissionaris to the generale assembleie, to advys with the said assembleie and to crave thair jugementis quhat finell sentence salbe pronuncit againis him and ordanis the said Mr Andro to be summond to compeir befor us in the kirk of Striviling the iij day of December nixtocum to heir and se the said sentence pronuncit againis him, with certificatioun that quhiddir he compeir or nocht the samin wilbe pronuncit againis him according to the proces deducit.

Robert Veiche: The samin day the moderatour producit befor the brethrein ane summondis dewlie execute and indorsit gevin at thair command chairgeing Robert Veiche, sumtyme gwarden of the Gray freiris in Striviling, to have compeirit befor the synnodall assembleie of the elderschippis of Edinburgh, Striviling, Linlythquow and Dalkayth haldin in Edinburgh the first day of October instant befor none to have gevin ane confessioun of his fayth and religioun as lykwys to have ressavit discipline for his formar abusis as the

brethrein of the said assemblie sould have injonit to him undir the paine of excommunicatioun, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis and executioun, lyk as alsua the said moderatour intimat to the brethrein ane act of the said assemblie made anent the said freir, Robert Veiche, inrespect of his noncomperance, berand in effect that the brethrein thairof hes continewit the pronuncein of the sentence till the nixt generall assemblie and willit the cautioner to produce him thair and ordeinit the cautioner to be summond to that effect. Inrespect of the quhilk ordinance, the brethrein ordanis Michael Rynd, gouldsmyth in Striviling, cautioner for the said Robert Veiche, to be summond to compeir him self and entir the said freir Robert Veiche and produce him befor the generall assemblie to be haldin in Edinburgh on the thrid day thairof, viz., the xij day of October instant, to gif ane confessioun of his faithe and religioun as lykwys to ressave disceplein for his formar abusis and disobedience, as the brethir of the said assemblie sall injone to him, to heir and se thair sentence pronuncit thairanent undir the paine of disobedience, with certificatioun and the said Michael failzie in entering of the said freir Robert Veiche the said day, as said is, the brethrein of the said assemblie will decern the censuris of the kirk to be execute againis him with all rigour.

Persone of Cultir: The quhilk day compeirit Archebauld Levingstoun, persone of Cultir, and declairit that becaus he was lauchfullie provydit to the parsonage of Cultir, he acknowlegit him self to be bund thairby of his dewatie to serve in the cuir of the ministrie at the kirk thairof and to the effect he may entir in the said cuir with the bettir ordur desyris the brethrein of this presbytery to gif him thair testimoniall of his lyf and conversatioun direct to the presbytery of Lainrig, in the quhilk boundis the said kirk of Cultir is, that thaireftir he may be lauchfullie admittit thairto be the said presbytery of Lainrig. Quhilk desyr beand hard be the brethrein and eftir diligent inquisitioun beand tane among thame all conveynit, thair was na thing fund in his lyf and conversatioun bot honestie and thairfor ordanit his said desyr to be grantit.

At Striviling the xxij day of October, 1583

Presentes: Mr William Stirling, James Andirsone, Patrik Gillaspie,

Michael Lermonthe, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Mr Arthur Futhie, Mr Andro Yung, Mr Neill Campbell, Robert Mentayth, Alexander Fargy, ministeris; Alexander Forester of Garden, elder; Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur of exerceis; Mr Duncan Nevein, William Stirling and Alexander Balvaird, rederis.

Moderator: The quhilk day Patrik Gillaspie, minister at Sanct Ninianis kirk, be voit of the haill brethrein was chosin moderatour in this presbytery to the nixt provincially assemblie.

The quhilk day the moderatour foirsaid made intimatioun to the haill brethrein that thair was ane publict fast appointit be the last generall assemblie to be observit publictly be the haill kirk of Scotland upone the secund and thrid Sundayis of December nixt and thairfor desyrit everie ane of the brethrein to mak dew intimatioun unto thair parrochinnaris of the same and to exhort thame to observe the same according to the ordur.

Item, the said moderatour made intimatioun lykwys that the nixt generall assemblie is to be haldin in the toun of Sanctandrus on the xxiiij day of Aprill excep be parliament or uthir occasiounis the samin be prevenit be adverteisment of the brethir of Edinburgh.

The quhilk day the moderator reportit that ane summondis beand product befor the generall assemblie lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone the xij day of October instant chairgeing Michael Rynd, gouldsmyth in Striviling, to produce befor thame the said day freir Robert Veiche, sumtyme gwarden of the Gray freiris in Striviling, as cautioner for him as the samin in the self at mair lynthe beris, quhilk summondis togethir with the haill proces deducit befor us and the synnodall assemblie of this province beand sein and considerit be the said assemblie, the said assemblie hes ordeinit that the said freir Robert Veiche sould be summarlie excommunicat be the brethrein of the presbytery of Striviling according to the certificatioun conteinit in the summondis product on him befor the said provincially assemblie becaus of his non-comperiance and disobedience thair. Quhilk ordinance of the generall assemblie beand considerit be the brethrein, thay have ordeinit James Andirson, minister at Striviling, to pronounce the sentence of excommunicatioun againis him and to begin the admonitionis preceding the samin on Sunday nixt the xxvij of

October instant and thaireftir to proceid summarlie according to the ordur and to report the samin to the nixt sessioun.

Mr Alexander Chisholme: The quhilk day Mr Alexander Chisholme, minister at Muthill, exponit and declairit to the brethrein that Archibald Ogilvie of Lawtoun, his fathir in law, was departit furth of this lyf and thairfor his aigit mothur hade desyrit him to dwell in hous with hir famelie and do the part of ane faythfull and obedient sone to hir, quhilk of his dewatty he could nocht gudelie refuse, yit becaus hir dwelling hous is mair neir to Perthe nor this brugh desyris lycence of the brethrein that he may resort and keip exerceis with the brethrein of the presbytery of Perthe in tymis cuming inrespect of his maist neir dwelling thairto, as said is. The brethrein, being advysit with the said Mr Alexander desyr, grantis lycence to him to resort to the exerceis of the presbytery of Perthe only quhill the nixt provinciall assemblie of this province, provyding alwayis that him self and his flock be in the mentyme subject to the disceplein of this presbytery.

Auldy: The quhilk day compeirit Patrik Crichtoun of Strathurd and productit befor the brethrein in name of Elezabeth Crichtoun, lady Auldy, ane bill gevin in to the last generall assemblie of the kirk with ane ordinance of the samin on the bak thair of desyrand the brethrein of this presbytery to call befor thame the laird of Auldy, husband to the said Elezabeth, and to admoneis him to do his dewatty to ane man chyld quhairof his said spous was delyvir in the moneth of *Junij* last and in speciall to caus bapteis him as becumis ane Christiane man to do to his awin chyld or ellis to schaw ane ressonable caus quhy, as at mair lynth is conteinit in the said bill. With the quhilk, the brethrein being advysit findis that the said laird of Auldy dwellis presentlie within the boundis of this presbytery and siclyk ar [is, *deleted*] willein to obey the said ordinance, thairfor ordanis the said laird of Auldy, callit Andro Merser [of] Miclour, to be summond *litteratorie* to compeir befor thame to heir and se him self decernit to present the said mane chyld to be baptezit as his awin lauchfull sone or ellis to allege ane ressonabill caus quhy the samin sould nocht be done undir the paine of disobedience.

James Blacwod: The quhilk day being assignit to James Blacwod, brothir to Sir William Blacwod, excommunicat, to report quhat he

hes proffetit the said William be his confirence with him sen the xxvij day of August last bypast and als to heir and se the jugementis of the brethrein pronuncit on ane answer in wret producit be the said James Blacwod, compeirit the said James Blacwod personalie quha being desyrit to report quhat he hes proffetit the said William Blacwod be his confirence with him ansorit that he hade nevir confirence with him sensyne excep ainis or twys becaus he hes bein almost continuallie sensyne furth of Dunblane in land-wart. Nochttheles gif it sall plais the brethrein to grant farther lycence to him to confer with his brethur and furneis him his necisaris, as of befoir, he sall do according to his powar to convert him fra the damnabill idolatrie of papistrie to the cleir lycht of the evangell. The brethrein grantis lycence to the said James Blacwod, as of befoir, to send the said Williamis neciseris to his awin chalmir allanirlie and him self with ane or twa of the elderschip of Dunblane conjunctlie to confer with him to the nixt provinciall assemblie of this province, viz., the vij of Aprill nixt to the effect foirsaid and this for answer to the wret producit be the said James Blacwod befoir specefeit and als ordanis the said James Blacwod to report to the brethrein on the xiiij day of the said moneth of Aprill quhat he proffetis the said William be his confirence undir the paine of disobedience.

At Striviling the xxix day of October, 1583

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, Mr William Stirling, Alexander Fargie, Mr Arthur Futhie, Mr Andro Yung, Mr Adame Merschell, Robert Mentayth, Michael Lermonthe, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur of exerceis.

The quhilk day the moderatour askit James Andirson gif he hade admonesit freir Robert Veiche, as he was ordeinit in the last sessioun. The said James ansorit that upone Sondag last he hade gevin him the first admonitioun befoir the sentence according to the ordur and he fand na obedience offrit be him nor nane in his name. The brethrein ordanis him to proceid and gif the second admonitioun according to the ordur on Sondag nixt and report the samin on the v day of November nixt.

Patrik Layng: The quhilk day Patrik Layng being desyrit, yit as

of befor, to declair the trewth gif he takis silvir for mariagis and baptisme ministrein, the said Patrik ansorit and confessit that he takis silvir for the ministratioun baithe of mariagis and baptisme and grantis he baptezit ane bairne in Airthe gottin in adultrie quhairof the parentis hade nocht satisfieit the kirk. The brethrein continewis thair jugementis heirin and anent his uthir accusatiounis quhill thai be farther advysit.

Auldy: The quhill day ane summondis beand productit dewlie execute and indorsit upone Andro Merser of Micklour chairgeing him to have compeirit the said day to heir and se him self decernit to have presentit his sone gottin on Elezabeth Crichtoun, his spous, to be baptezit as his awin lauchfull sone or ellis to have allegit ane ressonablle caus quhy the samin sould nocht be done under the paine of disobedience, quhillk Andro Merser being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht except James Blakwod, reder, quha compeirit and in his name proponit ane excuis of his absence quhillk was admittit for this day onelie, nochttheles the brethrein ordanis the said Andro to be summond *litteratorie* to the effect foirsaid undir the paine of disobedience.

Archibald Smyth, adulterar in Striviling: The quhill day ane summondis beand productit lauchfullie execute and indorsit upone Archibald Smyth, yunger, in Striviling, chairgeing him to have compeirit befor the brethrein the said day to heir and se him self decernit to be excommunicat for his disobedience in nocht compeirin befor the last synnodall assemblie of this province haldin in Edinburgh the first day of October instant to have ressavit injunctiounis to have bein injonit to him for adultrie committit be him with Margaret Gib, as he was lauchfullie chairgit be the sessioun of the kirk of Striviling undir the said paine of excommunicatioun, compeirit the said Archibald personallie and grantis the said adultrie, as said is, and allegit that his noncomperance befor the said assemblie was nocht of na contemp nor disobedience that he meinit to the kirk bot onelie inrespect of ane sinister informatioun he gat assurand him that his comperance befor the synnodall assemblie was nocht neidfull the said day, nochttheles the said Archibald confessit his disobedience and offrit him self in the brethreinis will thairfoir. The brethrein dispensis with the said Archibald disobedience, inrespect his said allegence was understand to sum of thame to be

trew, and ordeinit him with all diligence to act caution in the commissaris buikis of Striviling that he sall compeir in Edinburgh befor the provincially assemblie of this province thair to be hauldin on the first Twysday of Aprill nixt to ressave injunctionis to be injonit to him for adultrie with Margaret Gib, spous to Alexander Gibsone, and to obey thame undir the paine of xl libis.

Adulterar in Logy: The quhilk day compeirit Robert Hendirsone, parrochinnar in Logy, husband to Elezabeth Hendirsone, and grantis him to have gottin ane bairne in adultrie with Margaret [Agnes, *deleted*] Smyth, now in Keir, and grantis the said fault was made in his awin hous within the said parrochun of Logy and offiris obedience to the kirk for his said fault and thairfor desyris that Alexander Fargy, his minister, be commandit to bapteis his said bairne. The brethrein ordanis the said Robert to compeir befor the nixt provincially assemblie of this province in Edinburgh, the first Twysday of Aprill nixt, viz., the [blank] day of the samin, thair to ressave injunctionis to be injonit to him for his said adultrie and to obey the samin and that he with all diligence act caution in the commissaris buikis of Striviling for him that he sall obey thair said ordinance in all pointis undir the paine of xx libis., quhilk caution being actit, as said is, the brethrein ordanis Alexander Fargy to bapteis his said bairne.

Kinnimmond in Clakmannan parrochun: The quhilk day compeirit Hellein Kinnimmond and grantis hir to have bein mareit on Johnne Blak quha departit fra hir to Flandiris to the weris, thre yeir syne or thairby, and as scho is credablie informit allegis him ded thair ane yeir or mair syne, and sen his deces the said Hellein grantis that James Schaw, apperand of Sauchie, hes gottin ane bairn with hir in fornicatioun quhairof scho is delyvir schort syne, for the quhilk fault the said Hellein offiris to satisfie the kirk and thairfor desyris command to Alexander Fargy to bapteis hir bairne. The brethrein, being advysit with the said Hellein confessioun, findis na sufficient testimony of the deathe of hir said husband befor hir carnall copolatioun with the said James and thairfor can nocht presentlie decern gif hir said fault be adultrie or fornicatioun. Nochttheles thai ordein that sufficient caution be actit in the commissaris buikis of Striviling for the said James and Hellein that thai and ilk ane of thame under the paine of fourty pundis money sall satisfie

the kirk as thai salbe commandit at quhat tyme thai be requyrit thairto, quhilk cautioun be actit as said is, ordanis Alexander Fargy to bapteis hir bairne.

At Striviling the fyft day of November, 1583

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, James Andirson, Mr William Stirling, Mr Andro Yung, Alexander Fargy, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iule; Mr James Pont, elder; Umphra Cunynghame, elder; William Stalkar, baillie in Stirling.

Freir Veiche: The quhilk day the moderatour askit James Andirson, minister at Striviling, gif he hade gevin the secund admonitioun to freir Robert Veiche as he was ordeinit in the last sessioun. The said James ansorit that he hade don the samin on Sunday last and fand na obedience offirit be him nor na uthir in his name. The brethrein ordanis him to proceid and gif the thrid admonitioun according to the ordur on Sunday and report the samin on the xij of this instant.

Auldy: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit deulie execute and indorsit upone Andro Merser of Meiklour chairgeing him to have compeirit befor us the said day to have hard and sein him self decernit to have presentit his sone gottin on Elezabeth Crichtoun, his spous, to be baptezit as his awin lauchfull sone or ellis to have allegit ane ressonabill [caus] quhy the samin sould nocht be done undir the paine of disobedience, quhilk being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, thairfoir the brethrein, undirstandand the ordinance of the generall assemblie gevand chairge to thame to summond the said Andro to the effect foirsaid besyd thair awin powar ovir him dwelland within the boundis of the said presbytery, findis he is twys ordurlic summond and hes disobeyit and thairfor findis him contumax, for the quhilk caus the brethrein ordanis him to be summond of new *litteratorie* to the effect foirsaid undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

Jarvie, excommunicat: The quhilk day compeirit Cristane Jarvie dwelland in S. Ninianis parrochun lauchfullie excommunicat for disobedience to the kirk conjonit with adultrie committit be hir with Johnne Knox in Carnock and offirit to satisfie the kirk and thairfor desyrit to be absolvit fra the sentence of excommunicatioun. The brethrein ordanis the said Cristane with all diligence to act

cautioun in the commissaris buikis of Striviling that scho sall compeir befor the nixt provinciall assemblie of this province to be haldin in Edinburgh the first Twysday of Aprill nixt, thair to ressave injunccionis to be injonit to hir for hir disobedience conjonit with the cryme of adultrie undir the paine off xx lib.

At Striviling the xij day of November, 1583

Presentes: Mr William Stirling, Alexander Fargy, Michael Lermonthe and Thomas Duncansone, ministeris; Mr Duncan Nevein, William Stirling, Alexander Balvaird, rederis; Umphra Cunynghame, Robert Alexander, elderis; and Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur of exerceis. [*No minutes.*]

At Striviling the xix day of November, 1583

Presentes: Michael Lermonthe, minister; Mr Duncane Nevein, reder; Umphra Cunynghame, elder; and Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur of exerceis.

Auldy: The quhilk day compeirit Patrik Crichtoun of Strathurd, procurator for Elezabeth Crichtoun, lady Auldy, and productit ane procuratorie subscriyvit be the said Elezabeth, as it beris in the self, with ane summondis deulie execute and indorsit upone Andro Merse of Meiclour chairgeing him to have compeirit befor us the said day to have hard and sein him self decernit to have presentit his sone gottin on Elezabeth Crichtoun, his spous, to be baptezit as his awin lauchfull sone or ellis to have allegit ane ressonable caus quhy the samin sould nocht be done under the paine of excommunicatioun. Compeirit Robert Hobrun in Stirling, in name of the said Andro Merse, havand his command and powar to that effect be ane misseive wreting and productit the said Andro Merseis answer to the said summondis in wret, as it beris in the self. The brethrein continewis farther proceidein in the said mater to the xxvj day of November instant and ordanis the defender to be summond to compeir the said [day] personallie to heir and se farder proces deducit in the said mater undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

At Striviling the xxvj day of November, 1583

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, James Andirsone, Mr William Stirling, Mr Arthur Futhie, Michael Lermonthe, Alexander Fargy, Mr Andro Yung; Mr Duncane Nevein, reder; Umphra Cunynghame, elder.

Auldy: The quhilk day compeirit Elezabeth Crichtoun, lady Auldy, and producit ane summondis deulie execute and indorsit upone Andro Merse of Auldy, hir husband, chairgeing him to have compeirit personallie the said day to heir and sie farder proces deducit befor the brethrein anent the refusall of the said Andro to bapteis his allegit bairne quhairof his said spous was lichter undir paine of excommunicatioun. Quhilk Andro being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht personallie, as he was lauchfullie warnit, and thairfor was fund be the brethrein contumax and is ordeinit to be summond *litteratorie* to compeir befor us personallie to heir and se him self decernit to be excommunicat for his contemp and malicius disobedience, with certificatioun and he failze we will proceid and decern him to be excommunicat, as said is, according to the Word of God and disceplein of the kirk havand the warand thair of thairin.

The samin day, James Andirsone was askit be the moderatour gif he hade gevin Robert Veiche the 3 admonitioun, quha answerit he hade gevin the 3 and 4 admonitioun and hard na obedience offrit. The brethrein ordanis him to pronunce the sentence of excommunicatioun againis him on Sonday nixt and report the samin the nixt sessioun.

At Striviling the iij day of December, 1583

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, James Andirsone, Johnne Duncansone, Andro Yung, Mr Arthur Futhie, Alexander Fargy, Robert Mentayth, Johnne Row, ministeris; Umphra Cunynghame, elder, and [blank] kirk reder.

Mr Andro Grahame: The quhilk day Mr William Stirling and James Andirsone, commissionaris to the last generall assemblie, was desyrit to report to the jugement of the said assemblie tuiching our finall sentence to be producit againis Mr Andro Grahame, conforme to ane ordinance made of befor and commissioun gevin to thame

to that effect, quha ansorit that the said mater beand proponit be thame to the haill assemblie was refarrit to the privie confirence of the moderatour of the said assemblie and his assessuris and albeit thai cravit that mater to be rassonit dyvers tymis and to have the said assembleis jugement thairin, yit thruch uthir mony weghtie materis that was in handlein the samin was past ovir without ony answer, quhairwith the brethrein being advysit thinkis gude that the said mater be continewit, as of befoir, to the nixt generall assemblie.

The quhilk day ane summondis beand productit deulie execute and indorsit upone Andro Merser of Nicklour [*sic*] chaargeing him to have compeirit the said day to have hard and sein him self decernit to be excommunicat for his contemp and disobedience as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis, compeirit the said Andro Merser and Elezabeth Crichtoun, his spous, baithe personallie. The said Andro was first accusit be the moderatour for his disobedience to the kirk and was desyrit to declair quhat was the caus thairof, the said Andro answerit that he hade declairit to sum of the brethrein ane excuis for his absence besyd ane wreting anent the same that he wret to the haill brethrein in the last sessioun, bot seing his excuis was nocht fund ressonable he presentlie offiris him self in the will of the kirk for his said disobedience.

Auldy: The samin day the said Andro Merser of Nicklour [*sic*] being inquiryt be the moderatour of this presbytery to declair quhy he will nocht bapteis the mane chyld quhairof Elezabeth Crichtoun, his spous, was delyvir of in the monethe of *Junij* last bypast, the said Andro answerit and confessit the said mane chyld to be his and promesit to desyr Mr Adam Mairschell, minister of his parroche kirk, to bapteis the samin in his name within twenty dayis nixt heireftir and sall do thairanent as becumis of his dewatie, and to that effect sall send for his said bairne on Monunday or Twysday nixt and bring him to his plaice of Auldy or ellis sall ressave his said bairne fra quhome it sall plais the said Elezabeth Crichtoun to send him, with quhilk promeis the brether fundis rassonable, and thairfor ordanis the samin to be done as said is. [*In margin*: On the 17 of December it was reportit be the lairdis misseive wreting productit be Robert Hobrun that he hade satisfeit this ordinance in all pointis.]

Freir Robert Veiche: The quhilk day James Andirsone, minister at Striviling, was inquyrit be the moderatour gif he hade pronuncit the sentence of excommunicatioun againis freir Robert Veiche as he was ordeinit or nocht, the said James ansorit that according to the brethreinis ordinance and inrespect na obedience was offrit be the said freir nor na uthir in his name, he hade pronuncit the sentence of excommunicatioun againis him on Sunday last according to the ordur, quhilk sentence and admonitionis gevin to him of befor at command of the brethrein the said James hes productit, quhilk beand red and considerit be the brethrein thay have fund that the said James hes proceedit ordurleie againis the said freir Robert Veiche, according to the brethreinis ordinancis, and the said admonitionis and sentence put in dew and convenient forme quhair of the tennour follwis.

1. *Admonitioun*: Upone Sunday the xxvij day of October instant anno im vc lxxxij yeiris, I, James Andirsone, minister of Godis Word at Striviling, at command of ane ordinance of the presbytery of the said brugh in the parroche kirk of the samin immediatlie eftir sermond publictlie admonesit freir Robert Veiche, sumtyme gwarden of the Gray freiris of Striviling, to randir obedience to the reformat kirk of Christ within this realme, to gif ane confessioun of his faithe and religioun publictlie according to his promeis made befor the brethrein of the said presbytery of Striviling, to recant his papisticall erruris, quhilk he hes menteinit in tymis past, according to his said promeis, to submit him self to the disciplein of the said kirk and to undirly the samin disceplein for dissaving of the pepill and abusing of the sacramentis, undir the paine of excommunicatioun, and this as for the first admonitioun befor the sentence conforme to the ordur, quhilk I did in presens of the haill pepill conveynit to heir Godis Word for the tyme. James Andirsoun, minister foirsaid.

2. *Admonitioun*: Upone Sunday the iij day of November the yeir of God im vc lxxxij yeiris, I, James Andirsone, minister of Godis Word at Striviling, at command of ane ordinance of the presbytery of the said brugh within the parroche kirk of the samin immediatlie eftir sermond publictlie admonesit freir Robert Veiche, sumtyme gwarden in the Gray freiris of Striviling, to randir obedience to the reformat kirk of Christ within this realme, to gif ane confessioun of

his faithe and religioun publictlic according to his promeis made befor the brethrein of the said presbytery of Striviling, to recant his papisticall erruris quhilk he hes menteinit in tymis past according to his said promeis, to submit him self to the disceplein of the said kirk and to underly the samin disceplein for dissaving of the pepill and abusing of the sacramentis undir the paine of excommunicatioun and this, as for the secund admonitioun befor the sentence, conforme to the ordur quhilk I did in presens of the haill pepill conveyit to heir Godis Word for the tyme. James Andersoun, minister off the evangell at Striviling.

3. *Admonitioun*: Upone Sunday the x day of November the yeir of God im vc lxxxiiij yeiris, I, James Andersone, minister at Striviling, at command of ane ordinance of the presbytery of the said brugh in the parroche kirk of the samin immediatlie eftir sermond publictlic admonesit freir Robert Veiche, sumtyme gwarden of the Gray freiris in Stirling, to randir obedience to the reformat kirk of Christ within this realme, to gif ane confessioun of his fayth and religioun publictlic according to his promeis made befor the brethrein of the said presbytery, to recant his papisticall erruris quhilk he hes menteinit in tymis past according to his said promeis, to submit him self to the disceplein of the said kirk and to undirly the samin disceplein for dissaving of the pepill and abusing of the sacramentis undir the paine of excommunicatioun, and this as for the admonitioun befor the sentence conforme to the ordur, and thaireftir I made prayeris for his conversioun and exhortit all the congregatioun to pray for him, quhilk I did in presens of the haill pepill conveyit to heir Godis Word for the tyme. James Andersoun, minister off the evangell at Striviling.

4. *Admonitioun*: Upone Sunday the xxiiij day of November the yeir of God foirsaid, I, James Andirsone, minister of Godis Word at Striviling in the parroche kirk thair of, immediatlie eftir sermond publictlic admonesit freir Robert Veiche, sumtym gwarden of the Gray freiris in Striviling, to randir obedience to the reformat kirk of Christ within this realme, to gif ane confessioun of his fayth and religioun publictlic according to his promeis made befor the brethrein of the presbytery of the said brugh, to recant his papisticall erruris quhilk he hes menteinit in tymis past according to his said promeis, to submit him self to the disceplein of the kirk and to

undirly the samin disceplein for dissaving of the pepill and abusing of the sacramentis undir the pain of excommunicatioun, and this as for the fourt admonitioun befor the pronuncein of the sentence of excommunicatioun to the effect the said freir sould have na occasioun to allege ovir summar proceeding againis him nor sufficient admonitiounis gevin befor the pronuncein of the sentence and immediatlie thaireftir I made solem prayer for his conversioun and exhortit all the congregatioun to pray for him, quhilk I did in presens of the haill pepill conveynit to heir Godis Word for the tyme. James Anderson, minister off the evangell at Striviling.

Upone Sonday the first day of December the yeir of God foirsaid, I, James Andersone, minister of Godis Word at Striviling, at command of the brethrein of the presbytery of the said brugh in the parroche kirk of the samin immediatlie eftir sermond inquiryit the elderis and deacunis of the said kirk beand present for the tyme thane to declair gif freir Robert Veiche, be him self or utheris in his name, hade offrit to ony of thame to obey the ordinance of the kirk and admonitiounis gevin to him thairnent in name of the kirk quha keipit all sylence and als inquiryit publictlie gif the said freir Robert Veiche, or ony in his name, wald thane compeir and promeis obedience to the kirk and trew it is nane compeirit to that effect and thairfor for his proud contemp and malicius disobedience to the voice of the kirk (besyd his formar offencis), I, the said minister, at command of the brethrein of the said presbytery, pronuncit the sentence of excommunicatioun againis the said freir Robert Veiche, conform to the ordur, and denunciit him excommunicat and delyverit him ovir into the handis off Sathane to the destructioun of the flesche that the saull may be saif in the day of the Lord Jesus according to the Word of God, ordinance of the generall kirk and brethrein of the presbytery foirsaid in all pointis, quhilk I did in presens of the haill pepill conveynit to heir Godis Word for the tyme, and immediatlie thaireftir I admonesit all the faythfull and in speciall the said congregatioun and everie ane of thame to abhor the said freir Robert Veiche, excommunicat as ane hathin and publicane, and to have na kynd of societie with him lest thai be partakeris of his sinnis and of the curs of the same, and this I admonesit thame to bewar of, undir the paine of the censuris of the kirk to be execute againis sic as sould haif ony kynd of

familiaritie with him, unto the tyme he be absolvit fra the said sentence and restorit againe to the societie of the kirk. In witnes of the quhilkis, I, the said minister, hes subscriyvit thir my admonitiounis and sentence off excommunicatioun with my awin hand as follwis. James Andersone, minister off the evangell at Striviling.

At Striviling the [blank]

Upone the x day of December the brethrein of the presbytery of Striviling conveyinit nocht inrespect of the exerceis of the generall fast.

At Striviling the xvij day of December, 1583

Presentes: Mr William Stirling, James Andirson, Michael Lermonthe, Mr Andro Yung, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Alexander Fargy, ministeris; Duncane Nevein, reder; Robert Alexander and Umphra Cunynghame, elderis.

Generall fast: The quhilk day the moderator inquiryt gif the fast was deulie observit within the boundis of this presbytery and gif doctrein was teichit be the brethrein according to the ordur. It was ansorit be the haill ministeris present that the fast was deulie keipit within thair boundis (as thay undirstude) and doctrein was teichit be ilk ane of thame respective to thair awin flockis according to the ordur.

Robert Mentayth: The samin day, it was intimat to the brethrein that it was allegit that Robert Mentayth, minister at Alvayth, abusit the tyme of the said generall fast on the Sondagis and oulk dayis appointit be the generall kirk to be keipit at the lest in allwing of brydellis, bankettis at bairnis having with playing on pyppis and uther instrumentis thairat etc., to the grit sclandir of the kirk and contemp of the ordinance of the generall assemblie, for the quhilkis causis the said Robertis ordeinit to be summond to answer at the instance of the kirk for the said abuse and sic uther thingis as he salbe accusit of and to underly disceplein thairfoir undir the paine of disobedience.

The brethrein thinkis gude and ordeinis Alexander Fargy, minister at Logy, to teiche in his kirk the Actis of the Apostillis.

At Striviling the xxiiij day of December, 1583

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, James Andirson, Mr Andro Yung, Michael Lermonthe, Alexander Fargy, Robert Mentayth, Mr Neill Campbell, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iulle, Mr Andro Murdo, brethir of exerceis; and Umphra Cunynghame, elder.

Robert Mentayth: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit deulie execute and indorsit upone Robert Mentayth chairgeing him to compeir the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for abusing and prophaning the tyme of the generall humiliatioun and fast as the samin at lynthe beris, compeirit the said Robert personallie quha being [accusit] be the moderatur of the offensic follwing, first for making of ane mariage in the kirk of Alwayth on the first Sondag of the fast, viz., the secund Sondag of December expres againis ane act of the generall assemblie, quhilk mareit personis was accompaneit with ane pyper playand with thame to the kirk. The said Robert grantit the making of the said mariage on the said day at viij houris in the morning and that ane pyper playit with thame, as said is, to the kirk.

Secundlie, being accusit for making of ane mariage betuix twa personis parrochinnaris in Clakmannan in the said parroche kirk of Alwayth without lycence of the presbytery and that on the nixt Twysday follwing the first Sondag of the fast, the said Robert grantit the making of the said mariage on the said day at ix houris befor none as said is.

Thridlie, being accusit for allwing of ane bankat in Johnne Duncansonis hous at the wod syd on the said day and being present him self thairat, the said Robert confessit that the said bankat was in the said Johnnis hous the said day and that he him self drank thairat in ane quyet hous.

Fourtlie, being accusit for baptezin of the bairnis gottin within the parrochun of Clakmannan lauchfullie at the said kirk of Alwayth on the said Twysday expres againis ane act of the generall assemblie and allwing of banquettis to be in thair parentis housis the said day. The said Robert confessit the baptezin of the saidis bairnis the said day bot denyit that he knew ony banquettis to be in thair parentis housis the said day and that he expreslie forbaid the same.

The brethrein being advysit with the saidis accusationis and

answeris made thairto findis the said Robert giltye of thame all and findis him to have brokin sindrie acts of the generall assemblie specialle in making of mariagis within the tyme of the generall fast, in mareing of uther parrochinnaris nor his awin without lycence, in baptezein of bairnis and making of mariagis in landwart aff ane Sonday and in allwing of ane banket in Johnne Duncansonis hous in tyme of the fast in that, that he was present him self thairat, for the quhilkis sclanderus offencis the brethrein decernis the said Robert to pay in penalty fourty schillingis on the last of this instant to be convertit at the sicht and discretioun of the brethrein of this presbytery and thaireftir to make publict repentence in his awin parroche kirk of Alvayth on Sonday the ix day of Februar nixt undir the paine of disobedience, and ordanis Mr William Stirling, minister at Abirfull, to pas to the said parroche kirk the said day and ressave his repentence with certificatioun to the said Robert that gif the lyk of ony of the saidis faultis be fund in him againe he salbe perpetuallie deprivit frome all functioun in the kirk. [*In margin*: The penaltie within writtin payit, 28 January 1583 and repentence made. J, Duncansone.]

Anent pyperis at mariagis: The quhilk day the brethrein undirstanding ane grit abuse and superstitioun usit be sindrie personis that cumis to parroche kirkis to be mareit in causing pyperis and fidlayeris play befor thame to the kirk and fra the kirk, to the grit dishonour of God, for avoiding of the quhilk abuse, it is statute and ordeinit be the haill brethrein that na minister within the boundis of this presbytery marie ony personis that ar accompaneit to the kirk with playing on pyppis or ony uthir instrumentis on that day that thai ar swa accompaneit bot sall suffir thame to depart hame on that day unmareit and swa to do thaireftir quhill thay cum to the kirk reverentlie as becumis thame without ony playing, certifiand ilk minister or reder that dois in the contrar in tymis cuming sall suffir the disceplein of the kirk thairfoir according to his demereittis.

At Striviling the last day of December, 1583

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, James Andirson, Mr William Stirling, Mr Andro Grahame, Mr Andro Yung, Mr Arthur Futhie, Michael

Lermonthe, Mr Neill Campbell, Robert Mentayth, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iule, ane brothur of exerceis. [*No minutes.*]

At Striviling the vij day of Januar, 1583

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, James Andirsone, Alexander Fargy, Michael Lermonthe, Mr Johnne Campbell, bishop of Iyllis, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Mr Andro Grahame, Mr Andro Yung, Robert Mentayth, ministeris; Alexander Forester of Garden, Umphra Cunynghame, commissar of Striviling, and Alexander Patersone, merchant, elderis.

Johnne Crystesone, adulterar: The quhilk day compeirit Johnne Crystesone, parrochinnar in Stragayth, adulterar with Jonet Mwill by Jonet Allane, his spous, as he confessit on the penult day of July last and promesit obedience to the kirk for his said offence, and thairfor desyrit ane command to Mr Alexander Chisholm, his minister, to bapteis his bairne gottin on the said Jonet Mwille, as said is. With the quhilk, the brethrein being advysit ordeinis the said Johnne to compeir befor the nixt provinciall assemblie of this province to be haldin in Edinburgh the first Twysday of Aprill nixt, viz., the vij day of the samin moneth, thair to ressave injunctionis injonit to him for his said offence and to obey thame undir the paine of excommunicatioun and that he with all possablle diligence act cautoun ather in the buikis of the commissar of Striviling or Dunblane that he sall obey and satisfie the said ordinance in all pointis undir the paine of fourty pundis mony, quhilk cautoun beand actit, as said is, ordanis the said Mr Alexander Chisholme to bapteis his said bairne.

George Edmestoun, adulterar: The quhilk day compeirit George Edmestoun and confessit him to have committit adultrie with Mathie Grahame, spous to Donald McAdame, parrochinnar of Abirfoull, for the quhilk he offiris him self in the will of the kirk and confessit that the said fault was committit in the parrochun of Kilmadok and thairfor desyris command to Michael Lermonthe, his minister, to bapteis his bairne gottin as said is. With the quhilk the brethrein being advysit, ordeinis the said George to compeir befor the nixt provinciall assemblie of this province to be hauldin in Edinburgh the first Twysday of Aprill nixt, viz., the vij day of

the samin moneth, thair to ressave injunctionis to be injonit to him for his said offence and to obey thame undir the paine of excommunicatioun and that he with all possablle diligence act cautioun in the commissaris buikis of Dunblane that he sall obey and satisfie the said ordinance in all pointis undir the paine of fourty pundis mony, quhilk beand done ordanis his said bairne to be baptezit.

Margaret Smyth, adultrix: The quhilk day compeirit Margaret Smyth in Keir, within the parrochun of Dunblane, and grantis hir to have committit adultrie with Robert Hendersone, parrochinnar of Logy, husband to Elezabeth Hendersone, and grantis the said fault was committit in his hous within the parrochun of Logy, for the quhilk scho offiris hir self in the will of the kirk. The brethrein ordanis and commandis the said Margaret to compeir befor the nixt provinciall assemblie of this province to be haldin in Edinburgh the first Twisday of Aprill nixt, viz., the vij day of the samin moneth, thair to ressave injunctionis to be injonit to hir for hir said adultrie and to obey thame undir the paine of excommunication.

At Striviling xiiij day of Januar, 1583

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, moderatour, James Andirsone, Mr Andro Yung, Mr William Stirling, Mr Arthur Futhie, Alexander Fargy, Johnne Duncanson, Mr Andro Grahame, ministeris; Mr Duncane Nevein, reder; Mr Johnne Broun.

Mr Andro Grahame: The quhilk day the moderator, in name of the kirk, desyrit Mr Andro Grahame to declair gif he sett ony of the bischoprik of Dunblane in few or be tak to ony persone sen he was last tryit thairanent or nocht. The said Mr Andro answerit he hade sett nane thairof in few nor tak nor utherwaysis to ony persone farther nor he hade gevin up in wret to the brethrein of the said presbytery of befor, and siclyk the said Mr Andro beand myndfull nocht to hurt the kirk nor his successur be setting of ony mair of his said leving bot foirseing the utilitie and proffeit of the samin hes interdytit him self and be thir presentis interdyttit him fra setting of the said bischoprik or ony part thairof in tymis cuming in few or tak and fra making of facturis or takismen thairto without

the advys and consent of the brethrein of the said presbytery, quhilk the said Mr Andro be the tennour heirof promessis to observe and keip firmlie and suirlie undir the paine of perjure, defamatioun, and perpetuall deprivation. In witnes heirof, I have subscriyvit thir presentis with my hand, day, yeir, plaice foirsaid. Androu, B. Domblan.

The quhilk day, Patrik Gillaspie, minister at Sanct Ninianis kirk, exponit and declairit to the brethrein that Thomas Murdo, husband to Doratie Buchannan, is allegit adulterar with [blank] Waltir, for the quhilk he, as ane parrochinnar of the said kirk, hes bein oft and dyvers warnit to have compeirit befor the particular sessioun of the said parroche kirk to have hard tryell tane thairanent, quha will nocht obey thair citatioun without he be compellit. Thairfor the brethrein ordanis the said Thomas to be summond *litteratorie* to compeir, befor the brethrein to answer for the said disobedience and to heir and se him self decernit to have committit adultrie with [blank] undir the paine of disobedience.

At Striviling the xxij day of Januar, 1583

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, James Andirson, Mr William Stirling, Robert Mentayth, Mr Andro Yung, Alexander Fargy, Michael Lermonthe, Mr Andro Grahame, ministeris; Mr James Pont, Robert Alexander, Umphra Cunynghame, elderis; Mr Alexander Iull, ane brothur of exerceis.

Jonet Baxter, adultrix: The quhilk day compeirit Jonet Baxter, parrochinnar of Kilmadok, and grantis hir to have borne ane bairne gottin on hir in adultrie be Alexander Edmestoun, parrochinnar siclyk of Kilmadok, husband to Jonet Norie. For the quhilk offence the said Jonet offiris to obey the kirk and thairfor desyris ane command to Michael Lermonthe, hir minister, to bapteis hir said bairne. The brethrein ordanis and commandis the said Jonet to compeir befor the nixt provinciall assemblee of this province to be haldin in Edinburgh the first Twysday of Aprill nixt, viz., the vij day of the samin thair to ressave injunctionis to be injonit to hir for hir said adultrie and to obey thame undir the paine of excommunication, and that scho with all diligence act caution in the commissaris buikis of Striviling that scho sall obey the said ordinance

in all pointis undir the paine of xl lib., and ordanis the said Alexander to be summond *litteratorie* for the said adultrie undir the paine of disobedience, quhilkis beand done ordanis the said Michael to bapteis the said bairne.

At Striviling the xxviiij day of Januar, 1583

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, James Andirson, Alexander Fargy, Mr Neill Campbell, Robert Mentayth, Mr Adam Merschall, ministeris; William Stirling, reder; Umphra Cunynghame, elder; Mr Andro Murdo, ane brothur of exerceis.

Laird of Tullialloun: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit deulie execute and indorsit upone James Blacatur of Tullialloun, allegit adulterar with Margaret Murray, chairgeing him to have compeirit befor us the said day to heir and se him self decernit to have committit adultrie with the said Margaret, as at mair lynth is conteinit in the said summondis, compeirit the said James personallie, quha being accusit be the moderatour for adultrie with the said Margaret Murray, inrespect he haldis hous with the said Margaret and hes carnall copulation with hir as his wyf albeit the kirk undirstandis him to have bein lauchfullie mareit with Ellesone Bruce, quha as yit levis in this lyf (as is belevit), the said James ansorit and denyis adultrie with the said Margaret becaus that he upone the xix day of Aprill the yeir of God im vc lxxxj yeiris was lauchfullie devorcit be the commissaris of Edinburgh fra the said Ellesone Bruce thane his spous, for adultrie committit be him with Elezabeth Hozok *alias* Quene, with libertie thairin to the said Ellesone to marie in the Lord, quhilk allegence the said James varefeit be the extract of the said commissaris decreit subscriyvit be thair clark, quhilk he producit befor the brethrein and was fund be thame aggreable to the said allegence in all pointtis. And farder the said James allegit that upone the x day of August the yeir of God foirsaid he was lauchfullie mareit in the parroche kirk of Tullialloun with the said Margaret Murray be Alexander Mwre, minister, eftir he was lauchfullie proclamit with hir, and for varefeing of the quhilk he producit the said ministeris testimoniall of the dett foirsaid, subscriyvit with his awin hand, as appeirit, and thairfor inrespect of his said mariage with the said Margaret Murray allegit

he hes committit na adultrie with hir bot confessis adultrie with the said Elezabeth Hozok befor his said devorcement, for the quhilk he offiris him self to obey the kirk as he salbe commandit. And being accusit be the moderatour to declair gif he hade carnall dell at ony tyme with the said Margaret befor he was partit fra the said Ellesone Bruce, the said James denyit the samin *simpliciter*. Farder, the said James being desyrit to declair gif the said Alexander Mwre, minister, was musellit or ony wayis disgysit the tyme he mareit him with the said Margaret Murray and quhat pepill was in the kirk the tyme of his mariage and gif the day of his mariage was on ane Sonday or nocht, the said James answerit that the said minister was na manir of way disgysit on his faice nor utherwayis the tyme of the said mariage bot was honestlie claid in blak as becumis ane minister and that thair was ane lairge numbir of honest personis of the parrochun, men and wemen, in the kirk the tyme of the said mariage. And as for the day, he answerit that he remembrat nocht gif it was on ane Sonday or nocht. Als, the said James being requyrit gif he wald preive his last answer be famus witnes, viz., the apparell of the minister that he haid on the tyme of the mariage, the numbir of the pepill that was present thairat, and gif the day of his mariage was on ane Sonday or nocht, the said James offirit to do the samin. And for production of his witnessis to the effect foirsaid, the brethrein assignis to him the iiij day of Februar instant. The brethrein being advysit with the pretendit mariage made betuix the said James and Margaret continewis thair jugementis thairin quhill thay be advysit with the brethrein of the nixt provinciall assemblie of this province to be haldin in Edinburgh the first Twysday of Aprill nixt, viz., the vij day of the samin moneth, and warnis the said James *apud acta* to compeir befor the said assemblie, day and plaice foirsaid, to heir and se the jugementis of the said assemblie pronuncit anent the said mariage quhethir gif it be lauchfull or nocht, and that he siclyk ressave injunctionis fra the said assemblie for the said adultrie committit be him with the said Elezabeth Hozok, *alias* Quene, as salbe injonit to him and to obey thame undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

Margaret Bruce: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit deulie execute and indorsit upone Margaret Bruce chairgeing hir to have compeirit befor us the said day to haif answerit at the instance

of the kirk and to have hard and sein hir self decernit to have committit adultrie with Robert Bruce of Clakmannan and to undirly the disceplein of the kirk thairfoir undir the paine of excommunicatioun, quhilk Margaret being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, and thairfor was fund contumax, quhairfor ordanis the said Margaret to be summond *litteratorie* to heir and se hir self decernit to be excommunicat for hir contemp and malicius disobedience with certificatioun and scho failze to compeir and randir obedience to the voice of the kirk we will proceid and decern hir to be excommunicat, as said is, according to the Word of God and disceplein of the kirk havand warand thairof thairin.

Robert Bruce of Clakmannan: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit befor us dewlie execute and indorsit upone Robert Bruce of Clakmannan chairgeing him to have compeirit befor us the said day to heir and se him self decernit to have committit adultrie by his lauchfull wyf with Margaret Bruce and thairfor to undirly disceplein of the kirk undir the paine off disobedience, quhilk Robert being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht and thairfor the brethrein ordanis the said Robert to be summond of new *litteratorie* to the effect foirsaid undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

Robert Millar, adulterar and ane incesteus man: The quhilk day compeirit Robert Millar, husband to Marjorie Murray in the parrochun of Fossoway, and grantis him to have committit adultrie with Margaret Murray, brothur dochter to his said spous, for the quhilk he submittis him self in the will of the kirk and thairfor desyris his bairne gottin in adultrie on the said Margaret to be baptezit. The brethrein findis the said Robert to have committit adultrie and incest with the said Margaret Murray inrespect of his awin confessioun and thairfor ordanis and commandis the said Robert to compeir befor the nixt provinciall assemblie of this province to be haldin in Edinburgh, the first Twysday of Aprill nixt, viz., the [blank] day of the samin moneth, thair to ressave injunctionis to be injonit to him for his adultrie and incest, to obey thame undir the paine of excommunicatioun and that he with all diligence act cautioun in the buikis of the commissar of Striviling that he sall obey the said ordinance in all pointis undir the paine of xl libis., quhilk beand done, as said is, his said bairne to be baptezit.

At Striviling the iiij day of Februar, 1583

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, James Andirsone, Johnne Duncanson, Mr Andro Graham, Michael Lermonthe, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Mr Andro Yung, Mr William Stirling, Alexander Fargy, Mr Arthur Futhie, Robert Mentayth, ministeris; Umphra Cunnyng-hame, Robert Alexander, elderis; Mr Alexander Iull, Mr Andro Murdo, brethir of exerceis.

James Blacatur, Tulliallun: In the terme assignit to James Blacatur of Tullialloun to produce witnessis to preve the mariage of the said James on Margaret Murray, now his allegit spous, and gif the minister that ministrat the samin was musellit or nocht, the tyme of the ministratioun thair of, and quhat numbir of pepill was in the kirk the tyme of the ministratioun thair of, and gif the day of his mariage was on ane Sonday or nocht, compeirit the witnessis follwing, parrochinnaris of Tullialloun, viz., Johnne Meffane, elder in Tullialloun, Henrie Bennet thair, Johnne Jamesone thair, Johnne Thomesone, elder thair, Johnne Thomesone, yunger thair, and James Jamesone thair, quha being ressavit, sworne and admittit was examinat, as thair depositionis beris. The brethrein being advysit with the depositionis of the saidis witnessis findis that the said James Blacatur of Tullialloun was mareit in the parroche kirk thair of on the said Margaret on Sanct Lowrence day, viz., the x day of August twa yeiris bypast on ane oulk day be ane honest lyk man cled lyk ane minister with ane taffety hatt quhais name thai knew nocht, undisguysit on faice or utherways in presens of the saidis witnessis quha was requyrit be the said James Blacatur to cum to the said kirk the said day and with sum utheris with thame in the kirk the tyme thair of, and thairfor findis the said James allegence concerning his said mariage deulie varefeit.

Freir Veiche: The brethrein thinkis gude and ordeinis the haill ministeris within the boundis of this presbytery to mak dew intimatioun, as effeiris, in thair parroche kirkis that freir Robert Veiche is excommunicat lauchfullie in the parroche kirk of this brugh be James Andirsone, minister thairat, at our command on the first day of December last bypast and that thai notefie the causis thair of conteinit in the proces deducit againis him and siclyk ordeinis the moderatour and scryb to mak adverteisment in name of this sessioun

to all the presbyteris within this realme of the said excommunicatioun and the causis thairof, desyrand thame to caus intimatioun thairof to be made, as effeiris, in everie ane of thair parroche kirkis as thai and everie ane of thame will answer to the generall assemblie of the kirk.

Yung Fintrie excommunicat: The quhilk day compeirit Johnne Duncanson, minister to the kingis majestie, and declairit to the brethrein that he was commandit be the brethrein of the presbytery of Edinburgh to mak intimatioun to this presbytery lyk as he presentlie makis intimatioun that David Grahame, apperand of Fintrie, was excommunicat in the parroche kirk of Dundie be William Cristeson, minister thairof, on the xv day of December last bypast for his feirfull apostacie fra the trew religioun of Jesus Christ professit in Scotland to papistrie and superstitioun, and for his abyding thairat, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the proces deducit thairanent againis him, and desyrit the brethrein of this presbytery to caus intimatioun to be made within thair boundis as effeiris. According to the quhilk desyr, the haill brethrein within the boundis of this presbytery ar ordeinit to mak dew intimatioun in ilk ane of thair parroche kirkis respective of the said excommunicatioun and causis thairof, certifiand all personis that conferris or interteneis him ony manir of way that the censuris of the kirk salbe execute againis thame with all vigour.

William Lochart: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit deulie execute and indorsit upone William Lockart, tailyour, chairgeing him to have compeirit befor this sessioun the said day to heir and se the jugementis of the brethrein thairof pronuncit anent the thingis concerning religioun, quhairof he was tryit befor the particular sessioun of the kirk of Striviling, and to undirly disceplein according to his demereittis undir the paine of disobedience, quhilk William being oft tymes callit compeirit nocht. Thairfor the brethrein ordanis the said William to be summond *litteratorie* to the effect fairsaid undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

At Striviling the xj day of Februar, 1583

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, James Andirson, Mr William Stirling,

Mr Andro Yung, Alexander Fargy, Mr Alexander Chisholme and Robert Mentayth, ministeris; Robert Alexander, elder; Maisteris Alexander Iull, Andro Murdo, brethir of exerceis; and William Stirling, reder.

William Stirling: The quhilk day compeirit William Stirling, reder, quha being accusit be the moderator for mareing of Jonet Hay, adultrix, with Thomas Thomson, husband to [blank] on Andro Smart in Kippen; the kirk nocht beand satisfeit be the said Jonet for hir adultrie. The said William Stirling confessit he mareit the saidis personis bot allegis the said Jonet satisfeit the kirk according to Mr Andro Grahamis ordinance, beand commissioner for the tyme, and confessis that scho compeirit nevir befor the synnodall assembleie for the said caus. Secundlie, the said William being accusit for baptezzein of ane bairne gottin in fornicatioun be Gilbert Graham, servand to David, commendatar of Dryburgh, in Striviling on Agnes Allane (the parentis quhairof having nocht satisfeit the kirk) thairfoir, the said William confessit the baptezzein of the said bairne bot allegit that the said Gilbert hade fund cautoun to him that he and the woman sould satisfie the kirk of Striviling for the said offence. Thridlie, the said William being accusit for mareing of Johnne Duthie in Boquhen and Jonet Maclun, parrochinnaris of Sanct Ninianis kirk, in the kirk of Kippen without testimoniall of the lauchfull proclamatioun of thair bannis in the said parroche kirk, the said William grantit the said mariage, as said is, bot allegit that the said Johnne Duthie promesit to delyvir him the said testimoniall subscriyvit on the same day eftir none that thai war mareit on. Fourtlie, the said William being accusit for mareing of Johnne McNair in Abirfoull and Margaret Campbell in Port within the kirk of the Port within the tyme of the last generall fast, viz., on the Twysday efter the first Sonday of the fast expres againis the actis of the generall assembleie, the said William confessit the samin bot allegit he did it thruch ignorance. The brethrein continewis thair jugementis on the premisis quhill thay tak farther tryell of the said William Stirling.

Thomas Murdo allegit adulterar: The quhilk day ane summondis beand product deulie execute and indorsit upone Thomas Murdo, husband to Doratie Buchannan, allegit adulterar with Euffame Waltir, chairgeing him to compeir the said day to answer at the

instance of the kirk for disobedience to the voice of the sessioun of his awin parroche kirk of Sanct Ninianis kirk and to undirly disciplin thairfor and to heir and se him self decernit to have committit adultrie with the said Euffame Waltir undir the paine of disobedience, compeirit the said Thomas Murdo personallie and grantis him to have gottin ane bairne on the said Euffame Waltir in Touchadame, within the parrochun of Sanct Niniane, in fornicatioun bot denyis adultrie with hir becaus (as he allegit) his said umquhill spous callit Dorathrie Buchannan past fra him fyve yeir syne or thairby and that he is trewlie informit that scho is departit furth of this lyf in Ingland lang befor he hade ony carnall copulatioun with the said Euffame, and offiris to preive the samin be sufficient testimoniall, and thairfor denyis adultrie but offiris him self to obey the kirk, as effeiris, for fornicatioun with the said Euffame, inrespect quhairof the said Thomas desyrit the brethrein to gif command to Patrik Gillaspie, his minister, to bapteis his bairne gottin on the said Euffame. The brethrein, being advysit with the said Thomas allegence, findis that presentlie thay can nocht decern gif the said fault be adultrie or fornicatioun and thairfor assignis to the said Thomas the last Twisday of Merche, viz., the last day of the samin moneth, to preive his said allegence be sufficient testimoniall, he warnit thairto *apud acta* undir the paine of disciplin and ordeinis the said Thomas to caus cautioun be actit with diligence in the buikis of the commissar of Striviling for him self and the said Euffame that thay sall bayth obey and satisfie the kirk as thay salbe commandit eftir tryell be tane of the said offence under the paine of xl libis., quhilk beand done ordanis the bairne to be baptezit.

William Lockart: The quhilk day ane summondis beand productit deulie execute and indorsit upone William Lochart, tailyour, chairgeing him to compeir the said day to heir and se the jugementis of the brethrein pronuncit anent tha thingis concerning religioun quhairof he was tryit befor the particular sessioun of the kirk of Striviling and to underly disceplein according to his demerittis undir the paine of excommunicatioun, compeirit the said William Lockart personallie, and eftir that the brethrein haid hard and considderit the tryell tane of him be the sessioun of the kirk of Striviling thruch intimatioun of the actis thairof, thay ordeinit the

minister of Striviling and Mr Alexander Iulle, maistir of the gram-mir schull thairof, to confer with the said William privellie anent the cheiff heddis of religioun and quhat thai find in him be thair privie confrence that thai report it the nixt sessioun on the xvij of this instant, and the said William warnit thairto *apud acta* undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

At Striviling the xvij day of Februar, 1583

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, James Andirson, Alexander Fargy, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Mr Andro Yung, Mr Andro Grahame, Michael Lermonthe, ministeris; Mr James Pont, elder, William Norwall, elder; Maisteris Alexander Iull and Andro Murdo, brethir of exerceis.

William Lockart: The quhilk day, James Andirson and Mr Alexander Iull, beand desyrit be the moderator to report thair jugementis quhat thai fand of William Lockart be thair privie confrence hade with him, reportit that he willinglie aggreit with all heddis of the trew religioun of Jesus Christ professit in Scotland and (as appeirit to thame) he was nocht obstinat and that the wordis that he had spokin in menteinance of the mes was mair of ignorance nor uthirwayis. The said William beand callit, compeirit personallie quha was ordeinit to subscrieve the confessioun of the fayth subscriyvit be the kingis majestie, and thaireftir on Sunday nixt befor none immediatlie eftir sermond that he rys on his feit in the kirk of Striviling quhen he is callit be the minister thairof and thair confes that he hes offendit God in geving of his corporall presens to the mes in France and in speiking in this toun in menteinance thairof, and that he publictly dam the samin and all papistrie in generall and in speciall according to the said confessioun of fayth and declair that he willinglie fra his hairt imbressis the trew religioun professit in Scotland.

Exerceis beginnis at ix houris: The brethrein ordanis the exerceis to begin fra thisfurth at ix houris in the morning and the bell to ring in dew tym thairto.

John Burges; crippill woman: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit direct be the presbytery of Dunbartane deulie execute and indorsit upone Johnne Burges, dwelland with Agnes

Fergusone within the parrochun of Balfrone, chairgeing him to compeir befor this presbytery the said day, compeirit the said Johnne Burges and Jonet Hardy in Gargunnok personallie and the said Jonet maid hir complement befor the brethrein on the said Johnne as follwis, viz., that he haid gottin ane mane chyld on hir in fornicatioun quhairof scho was lichter on the xij day of December quhilk he refusit to acknowlege as his awin bairne and to caus bapteis the samin. According to the quhilk complement, the moderatour examinat the said Johnne at lynthe quha confessit that he hade carnall copulatioun with the said Jonet dyvers tymis bot denyit the said bairne to be his inrespect it come nocht to his reckning, nochttheles in his answeris he was fund to fengze and could nocht allege na uthir speciall mane to the said Jonet, and sindrie honest men hir nychtburis being inquiryit gif thai hard ony uthir man bruittit with hir quha ansorit nane, and thairfor inrespect of the premisis the brethrein findis the said bairne to be his, and ordanis him to do thairfor as becumis him and als ordanis the said Johnne and Jonet to satisfie the kirk of Sanct Niniane for the said fornicatioun, conform to the ordur and that thai compeir to that effect befor the particular sessioun of the said kirk the nixt Sunday, viz., the xxij day of Februar instant undir the paine of excommunication.

Mr William Moresone: The quhilk day it was proponit to the brethrein that ane scandir is rissin in this toun thruch Mr William Moresone, allegeand that he sould have spokin slanderuslie againis the trew religioun of Jesus Christ professit in Scotland to the grit hinderance of Godis glorie and discomfort of the faithfull, viz., on the xij day of this instant, inrespect quhairof the brethrein ordanis the said Mr William to be summond *litteratorie* to answer to sic thingis as salbe layit unto his chairge undir the paine of disobedience.

At Striviling the xxv day of Februar, 1583

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, James Andirson, Mr Arthur Futhie, Mr Andro Grahame, Mr Andro Yung, Michael Lermonthe, Robert Mentayth, Alexander Fargy, ministeris; Mr Duncan Nevein, William Stirling, rederis; Maisteris Alexander Iull and Andro Murdo, brether of exerceis.

Tirinterane: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit deulie execute and indorsit upone Alexander Levingstoun of Terinterane, Margaret Grahame his dochter in law, Alexander Frissell, Cristane Wod and Issobell Forester, servandis to the said Alexander, chairgeing thame to have compeirit the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for nocht presenting thame selffis to the examinatioun with the rest of the parrochinnaris of Kippen befor the communioun according to the ordur of the kirk, and for absenting thame selffis fra the communioun the tyme of the ministratioun thair of in thair said parroche kirk of Kippen and to have undirlyne disceplein thairfor ilk persone undir the paine of excommunicatioun, quhilkis personis being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht and thairfor is fund contumax, quhairfor the brethrein ordanis the saidis personis and ilk ane of thame to be summond *litteratorie* to heir and se thame selffis and ilk ane of thame decernit to be excommunicat for thair contemp and malicius disobedience to the weill of the kirk, with certificatioun and thai or ony of thame failze to compeir and randir obedience to the voice of the kirk, as said is, we will proceid and decern thame to be excommunicat according to the Word of God and disceplein of the kirk havand the warrand thair of thairin.

Mr William Moresone: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit deulie execute and indorsit upone Mr William Moresone chairgeing him to have compeirit befor the brethrein the said day to answer to sic thingis as salbe layit unto his chairge undir the paine of disobedience, compeirit Mr Alexander Iull and in the said Mr Williamis name producit ane misseive wreting of his direct to the brethrein berand ane excuis of his noncomperance this day and ane promeis that he sould compeir the nixt sessioun day, viz., the iij day of Merche nixt tocum and obey the said summondis, quhilk excuis the brethrein findis rassonablle and continewis farther proceeding againis him to the said iij day of Merche nixt tocum.

Margaret Murray, adultrix and ane incestuus woman: The samin day compeirit Margaret Murray in the parrochun of Fossoway and grantis hir to have committit adultrie with Robert Millar thair, husband to Marjorie Murray, hir fathir sistir, quhilk is fund be the brethrein to be incest and adultrie, and thairfor the brethrein

ordanis hir to compeir befor the nixt provinciall assemblie of this province to be haldin in Edinburgh the first Twisday of Aprill, viz., the vij day of the samin moneth, thair to ressave injunctionis to be injonit to hir for hir said adultrie and incest and to obey thame undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

At Striviling the iij day of Mairche, 1583

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, James Andirson, Johnne Duncansone, Alexander Fargy, Mr Andro Yung, Mr Andro Grahame, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Mr William Stirling, Michael Lermonthe, ministeris; Alexander Forester of Garden, Robert Alexander, elderis; Mr Duncane Nevein, reder at Dunblane.

Intimatioun of the excommunicantis in Dunblane: The quhilk day the brethrein understanding the lang speace sen Sir William Blackwod, Sir William Drummond and Andro Blakwod war excommunicat in the parroche kirk of Dunblane be the minister thair of for the tyme for nonrecantatioun of the papisticall religioun according to the proces deducit againis thame and incaice the commone pepill pretend ignorance thair of or suspect thame to be ressavit againe to the kirk sensyne, thairfor it is thocht gude and ordeinit that ilk minister within the boundis of this presbytery mak new intimatioun in thair parroche kirkis of the excommunicatioun of the saidis personis, and that thai swa remaine yit unabsovit be the kirk, and thairfor to command all personis to hauld thame as hathinis and publicanis and to have na kynd of societie with nane of thame undir the paine of the sensuris of the kirk to be execute againis everie ane that dois in the contrar.

Anent setting of ministeris stipendis: The quhilk day it is statute and ordeinit be the haill brethrein that thai, nor nane of thame, sall sett in tak or assedatioun thair beneficis or stependis or ony part thair of nor mak ony facturis thairunto without the advys and consent of the sessioun of this presbytery, quhilk thai promeis faythfullie to observe and keip undir the paine of perjurie, defamatioun and perpetuall deprivation. In witnes thair of, thai have subscriyvit thir presentis with thair handis as follwis, day, yeir, plaice foirsaid. [*A space follows for signatures but none is entered.*]

At Striviling the x day of Merche, 1583

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspy, James Andirsone, Mr Andro Grahame, Mr William Stirling, Mr Andro Yung, Michael Lermonthe, Johnne Duncanson, Alexander Fargy, Robert Mentayth, ministeris; Mr James Pont, Duncane Narne, elderis; and William Stirling, reder.

Adulteraris: The quhilk day the brethrein ordanis the haill adulteraris within the boundis of this presbytery convict thairin that as yit hes nocht fullalie satisfieit the kirk thairfor to be summond to compeir befor the nixt provinciall assemblee of this province to be hauldin in Edinburgh in the est kirk thairfor on the vij day of Aprill nixt to ressave disceplein for the said fault, ilk persone undir the paine of excommunicatioun with certificatioun and thai or ony of thame failze the kirk will proceed summarlie and decern the sentence of excommunicatioun to be pronuncit againis thame.

James Chisholmis anent yung Fintrie: The quhilk day the brethrein understanding that David Graham, apperand of Fintrie, is lauchfullie excommunicat for sic causis as ar conteinit in the proces deducit againis him and that sen syne he is ressavit and interteneit in James Chisholmis hous in Dunblane and remanit thair ane haill nycht (as is allegit), thairfor the brethrein ordanis and gevis commissioun to Maister Andro Yung, minister at Dunblane, Mr Andro Grahame, Mr William Stirling and Michael Lermonthe, or ony thre, twa or ane of thame, to caus summond the said James Chisholme of Cromlickis and James Chisholme, yunger, his sone, to compeir befor the nixt sessioun of the particular elderschip off Dunblane, and thair in presens of the elderis and deacunis of the said kirk to be conveyit for the tyme to try and examin the saidis James Chisholmis, elder and yunger, anent the allegit ressaving and interteneing of the said excommunicat mane in the said hous and the causis thairfor and quhat thai fund thairby to report againe the same to the brethrein on the xvij day of Merche instant.

Montrois anent yung Fintrie: The quhilk day the brethrein understanding that David Graham, apperand of Fintrie, Sir William Blackwod in Dunblane, James McKie, smyth in Abrevane, Jane Stewart thair, and Johnne Graham, burges of Edinburgh, ar lauchfullie excommunicat for sic causis as ar particularlie expremitt in the procesis respective deducit againis thame and becaus thai ar

athir freindis, tennentis or servandis to ane noblle and potent lord Johnne, Erlle of Montrois, Lord Graham, etc., and thairthrw may have occasioun to resort to his lordschippis plaice and cumpany and ar bruittit alreddy to have resortit thairto, thairfor ordanis our brothur Mr Andro Grahame to pas to the said noblle and potent lord and to admoneis him that he onnawayis ressave ony of the saidis personis in his plaice nor cumpany, nathir suffir nane of thame to be ressavit be ony of his domestickis in the samin, for gif it cum to our knowlege that his lordschip dois in the contrarie, quhilk we luik nocht for, we can nocht of our dewatie bot pres his lordschip with disceplein thairfoir, and ordanis the said Mr Andro to report againe to the brethrein his diligence in obeying this our ordinance on the xvij day of Merche instant.

William McKayis, adulterar in Drimmen: The quhilk day compeirit William McKayis dwelland in the parrochun of Dunblane, spous to [blank], and grantis him to have committit adultrie with Euffame Donaldsone within the parrochun of Drimmen and offiris him self to obey the kirk thairfoir. The brethrein findis the said fault committit outwith the boundis of this province in the boundis of the provinciall assemblie of Glasgw and thairfor ordanis the said William to compeir befor the nixt provinciall of that province to be hauldin in the cietie thairof on the [blank] day of [blank], thair to ressave disceplein for his said adultrie and to obey the same undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

Terinterane and his famelie: The quhilk day ane summondis beand product deulie execute and indorsit upone Alexander Levingstone of Terinterane, Margaret Graham his dochtir in law, Alexander Frissall, Cristane Wod and Issobell Forester, servandis to the said Alexander, chairgeing thame to have compeirit the said day to heir and se thame selffis decernit to be excommunicat and malicius disobedience to the voice of the kirk, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis product thairupone, compeirit all the saidis personis personallie (except Margaret Grahame) and grantis that thair disobedience in nocht obeying the summondis of the kirk was upone ignorance and na contemp, for the quhilk thai offir thame selffis in the will of the kirk, and being all accusit for nocht presenting thame selffis to the sacrament of the Lordis Supper ministrat in thair parroche kirk of Kippen on the [blank] day of

[blank] and for nocht presenting thame selffis to the examinatioun of befoir, according to the rest of the parrochinnaris, ansorit ilk ane respective for thair awin parttis and schew ane excuis of thair absens baith frome the ane and the uthir, quhilk excuisis was admittit be the brethir and fund ressonable for this present allanirlie. Nochttheles, the moderatour, at command of the brethrein, admonesit all the saidis personis that thai be nawayis absent fra the said sacrament quhen it is ministrat in thair awin parroche kirk in tymis cuming and that thai keip ordur the tyme of the examinatioun as ye rest of the parrochun dois undir the paine of the censuris of the kirk to be execute againis ilk ane of thame that dois in the contrar.

At Striviling the xvij day of Mairche, 1583

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, James Andirson, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Mr Arthur Futhie, Alexander Fargy, Mr Andro Grahame, Mr Andro Yung, ministeris; Umphra Cunynghame, elder; Mr Alexander Iulle and Mr Duncane Nevein, brethir of exercis.

Chisholmis anent Fintrie, excommunicat: The quhilk day the moderatour, in name of the haill brethrein present, inquiryt the brethrein of the ministrie in Dunblane to report quhat thai hade done anent the tryell of James Chisholme of Cromlikis and James Chisholme, his sone, tuiching the ressaving and interteneing of David Grahame, apperand of Fintrie, excommunicat, in the said James Chisholme elderis hous in Dunblane, according to the commissioun gevin to thame in the last sessioun, ansorit that on thair sessioun day in Dunblane bayth the saidis James Chisholmis was absent furth of the toun and thairfor thai hade done na thing thairanent as yit. The brethrein ordanis thame, as of befoir, to examin the saidis James Chisholmis anent the premissis conform to the formar commissione gevin to thame, on thair nixt sessioun day and quhat thai find thairby to report the same on the xxiiij day of this instant.

Montrois anent yung Fintrie: The samin day Mr Andro Grahame being inquiryt be the moderatour to report gif he hade admonesit Johnne, Erle of Montrois, lord Grahame, etc., anent David Grahame,

apperand of Fintrie, and uthir excommunicattis conteinit in the commissioun gevin to him conforme thairto or nocht, the said Mr Andro ansorit that he was occupyit utherwayis sen the said commissioun was gevin him quhairthrw he hade done na thing thairintill. The brethrein ordanis the said Mr Andro to obey and satisfie his commissioun as he was ordeinit and to report againe to the brethrein his diligence in obeying the samin on the xxiiij day of this instant.

Stewart, adultrix in Airthe: The quhilk day compeirit Margaret Stewart, dwelland in the parrochun of Airthe and grantis hir to have committit adultrie with James Smyth thair, thane spous to [blank], for the quhilk scho offiris to obey the kirk. The brethrein ordanis hir to compeir befor the nixt provinciall assemblie of this province to be haldin in Edinburgh the vij day of Aprill nixt, thair to ressave injunctionis to be [givin] hir for hir said adultrie undir the paine of excommunicatioun, with certificatioun and scho failze the kirk will proceid summarlie and decern hir to be excommunicatt.

At Striviling the xxiiij day of Mairche, 1583

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, James Andirson, Mr Andro Yung, Michael Lermonthe, Robert Mentayth, Alexander Fargy, ministeris; Mr James Pont, Umphra Cunynghame, elderis; Mr Alexander Iull, ane brothur of exerceis; and William Stirling, reder.

Chisholmis anent yung Fintrie: The quhilk day Mr Andro Yung, minister at Dunblane, beand requyrit be the moderatour to report quhat he hes done in trying of James Chisholme of Cromlickis and James Chisholme, his sone, anent the ressaving and interteneing of David Grahame, apperand of Fintrie, excommunicat, in thair hous of Dunblane according to the commissione gevin to him and utheris of the ministrie in Dunblane thairanent, the said Mr Andro answerit that the said James Chisholmis, elder and yunger, was convenit befor the sessioun in Dunblane, and the said James Chisholme elder, beand examinat quhy he ressavit the said excommunicat mane in his hous, answerit that he come suddenlie in his hous unknowen to him quhill he was thairin. Secundlie, being examinat quhy he suffirit the said excommunicat man to remane

all nycht in his hous and keip familiar cumpany with utheris thairin answerit that he did the samin thruch solistatioun and request of the auld lady Tullibairdin, callit [*blank*] Grahame. Thridlie, being examinat anent the said excommunicat mane tareing in his hous quhill the morne at none or thairby, answerit that he was desyrit be the auld laird of Fintrie to travell with him for persuading him to imbres the religioun professit be the kingis grace and his estaitis quhilk he did indeid quhairthru he was movit to suffir him to remane in his hous langer nor he wald have done uthirwayis, and siclyk the said James Chisholme, yunger, being examinat quhy he keipit cumpany with the said excommunicat mane and commonit with him, answerit that he undirstude that ony mane furth of the kingis hous mycht speik with him quhill the nixt generall assemblie becaus the sentence of excommunicatioun was summarlie pronuncit againis him (as he allegit), quhilk sentence (as he undirstude) was to be reducit be the nixt generall assemblie.

Montrois anent yung Fintrie: And farther the said Mr Andro Yung productit ane misseive wreting subscryvit be Mr Andro Grahame, direct to the brethrein berand ane excuis of his absence and his report anent his travelling with Johnne, Erlle of Montrois, lord Grahame, etc., according to his commissioun tuiching David Grahame, apperand of Fintrie, and utheris excommunicattis bruittit to be ressavit be him, quhais answer was that he nevir ressavit the said yung Fintrie to mentein him in ony point of papistrie or oppinioun repugnant to our religioun professit presentlie within this realme bot evir seikand be all meinis possablie to draw him to the menteinance of the samin. Farther, quhair he was desyrit that he sould nocht ressave him in his plaice in ony tymis cuming, ansorit that quhensoevir it plaisit the brethrein of the presbytery to direct unto him the minister of Stirling, accompaneit with ane barrun, or Johnne Duncansone, with ane barrun, his lordschip sould nocht fail to send ane ressonable and direct answer anent the hanting and ressaving of sic a persone as is disobedient unto the kirk. With the quhilkis reporttis, the brethrein being advysit findis that the said Erlle of Montrois, James Chisholme of Cromlickis and James Chisholme, his sone, hes ressavit in thair housis and cumpaneis the said David Grahame, apperand of Fintrie, sen he was excommunicat without the knowlege of the kirk or lycence obtineit

thairunto and als findis the excusis allegit be thame all of na effect and swa mereittis the disceplein of the kirk, bot becaus the day of the provincially assemblie of this province approchis neir, the brethrein countinewis farther proceeding in the said mater quhill thai be advysit with the brethrein of the said assemblie, and as tuiching the uthir excommunicattis conteinit in the said Mr Andro Grahamis commissioun findis nathing reportit in the said wreting anent thame and thairfor the brethrein continewis the samin to the said Mr Andro Grahamis awin presens.

Jonet Wilsons, fornicatrix: The quhilk day compeirit Jonet Wilsons and grantis hir to have borne sex bairnis in fornicatioun to the men eftir specefeit, for nane of the quhilkis scho hes satisfet the kirk as scho confessis, ane thairof gottin on hir xiiij yeiris syne or thairby in fornicatioun be Henrie Stirling of Airdocht in the plaice of Keir, twa thairof gottin on hir thair be Johnne Stirling *alias* Johnne Bute, twa thairof gottin on hir in fornicatioun be Mr James Chisholm, aircheden of Dunblane, ane of the samin gottin four yeir syne or thairby, and ane uthir of thame sensyne in the parrochun of Strogayth, and the sext bairne gottin on hir be William Quhytturn *alias* William Cuik, servand to the Errle of Arrall [*recte*, Erroll], in the parrochun of Strogayth and baptizit in the kirk of Fowllis be William Scott. The said first bairne that scho boire was baptizit in Dunblane be Mr Robert Montgumrie, minister thairof for the tyme, the secund in Dunblane be Robert Mentayth, thane minister thairof, the thrid in Dunblane be Mr Andro Young, thane minister thairof, and the last bairne gottin be the archiden baptizit be the said William Scott in the kirk of Fowllis fyve quarteris of ane yeir syne the uthir bairne, scho allegit, deit unbaptizit. The brethrein being advysit with the said Jonettis confessioun findis hir to have sclandirit the kirk varie lairgelie be hir lang continuance in huirdum with foir sindrie men and siclyk disobedient to the kirk of Dunblane as hir self hes confessit, and thairfor ordanis hir to mak publict repentence in secclayth in the parroche kirk of Dunblane thre sindrie Sondagis and to begin the nixt Sondag and swa furth ilk Sondag quhill the saidis thre Sondagis be compleit, and immediatlie thaireftir to mak publict repentence in the parroche kirk of Muthill, beand the kirk nixt adjacent to the said kirk of Strogayth quhairin thair is ane minister, uthir thre Sondagis, twa thairof in hir awin

clathis and the thrid in secclayth, undir the paine of excommunicatioun with certificatioun and scho failze in compleiting of the said Sondayis, as said is, the brethrein will proceid summarlie and decern hir to be excommunicat. [*In margin: xiiijo Aprilis 1584, Mr Andro Yung, minister of Dunblane, reportit that Jonet Wilson hes made repentence in the kirk of Dunblane, conform to this act withinwrittin in all pointis. J. Duncansone.*]

At Striviling the last day of Mairche, 1583

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, James Andirson, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Mr Arthur Futhie, Michael Lermonthe, Mr Andro Yung, Alexander Fargy, Mr Neill Campbell, William Scott, ministeris; Maisteris Alexander Iull, Andro Murdo, brethir of exerceis; Umphra Cunynghame, elder; and William Stirling, reder.

Thomas Murdo, allegit adulterar: In the terme assignit to Thomas Murdo, allegit husband to Dorathie Buchannan, to preive be sufficient testimoniall that the said Dorathie, his spous, is departit furth of this lyf in Ingland lang befor he hade ony carnall copulatioun with Euffame Waltir, quha being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht and thairfor the brethrein findis him to have succumbit in probatioun of the said allegiance and ordanis him to be summond to heir and se him self decernit to have committit adultrie with the said Euffame and to underly disceplein thairfor, nochtwithstanding of the said allegiance becaus he is succumbit in preiving of the samin or ellis to allege ane ressonable caus quhy the samin sould nocht be done, with certificatioun and he failze the brethrein will decerne, as said is, and ordane him to undirly the disceplein of the kirk thairfor as effeiris.

Issobell Finlay, adultrix in Airthe: The quhilk day compeirit Issobell Finlay in Airthe, spous to Andro Yung, and grantis hir to have committit adultrie with William Murray, cuik to the Maister of Elphinstoun, and offiris hir self in the will of the kirk thairfor. The brethrein ordanis hir to compeir befor the nixt provinciall of this province to be haldin in Edinburgh in the est kirk thairfor on the vij day of Aprill nixt thair to ressave injunctionis to be injonit to hir for hir said adultrie undir the paine of excommunicatioun, with certificatioun and scho failze the brethrein

will proceid summarlie and decern hir to be excommunicat, as said is.

Margaret Moir: The quhilk day ane summondis beand product dewlie execute and indorsit upone Margaret Moir, parrochinnar of Kilmadok, chairgeing hir to compeir the said day to heir and se tryell tane anent the fathir of ane bairne, quhair of the said Margaret is lichtir, and to underly discipline according to hir demereittis under the paine of disobedience, and als chairgeand James Dog, Walter Dog, sonniss to Alexander Dog, and Cristane Gourlay, maidwyf, to have compeirit the said day to beir lell and suithfast witnessing in the said mater insafar as thai knaw or salbe speirit at thame, ilk persone under the paine of disobedience, compeirit the said Margaret Moir personallie and grantis hir lichtir of ane [blank] or thairby and, being requyrit to declair quha is the fathir thair of, denyit that scho knew ony fathir thairto and that scho wist nocht quhen it was gottin, and being scherplie admonesit to declair gif scho hade evir carnall dell with ony mane ansurit negativelie, excep that Johnne McIlhois in the Strath of Mentayth hade ainis carnall dell with hir againis hir will in the harvest feild at the letter lady day in harvest, viz., the viij day of September last or thairby, bot denyit *simpliciter* that he was the father of hir bairne becaus he hade nevir carnall dell with hir at na uther tyme quhilk scho knew. The said James Dog, Walter Dog and Cristane Gourlay, witnessis, being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. Thairfor the brethrein ordanis thame to be summond *litteratorie* to the effect foirsaid under the paine of excommunicatioun and continewis farther examinatioun of the said Margaret Moir quhill the brethrein tak farther tryell thairanent utherwayis.

Upone the vij day of Aprill 1584, the brethrein was in Edinburgh at the provinciall assemblie of this province and thairfor thair was na exerceis nor sessioun in Stirling the said day.

At Striviling the xiiij day of Aprill, 1584

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, James Andirson, Mr Arthur Futhie, Alexander Fargy, Mr William Stirling, Mr Andro Yung, Mr Andro Grahame, Michaell Lermonthe, Mr Adame Merschell, ministeris;

Mr James Pont, elder; Maisteris Alexander [*recte*, Andro] Murdo and Alexander Iull, brethir of exerceis.

Placis of the synnodall assemblie: The quhilk day the moderatour made intimatioun that the nixt provinciall assemblie of this province is to be haldin, Godwilling, on the first Twisday of October nixt in Dalkayth, the second provinciall assemblie in Linlythquow on the first Twisday of Aprill nixt, the thrid provinciall in [*sic*] assemblie on the first Twisday of October 1585 in Stirling, and the fourt assemblie to be hauldin in Hadintoun the first Twisday of Aprill *anno* 1585, excep the samin be chengit thruch occasionis to fall out heireftir.

Mr Andro Grahams excuis for his absence fra the synnodall: The quhilk day the moderatour made intimatioun to Mr Andro Grahame that he was decernit be the last provinciall assemblie to pay iij libis., in penaltie for his absence thairfra, as for the secund fault siclyk xxx s. for his penaltie for his absence fra the provinciall assemblie of this province haldin in Edinburgh the first day of October last for his first fault, quhilk penalteis respective the moderatour desyrit the said Mr Andro Grahame to pay and delyvir presentlie according to the ordinance of the said assemblie. The said Mr Andro answerit and allegit for excuis of his absence fra the last provinciall assemblie, to wit, that he was undir the dainger of horning at the tyme quhen he sould have past to the last provinciall assemblie be chargis of letters for payment of his part of the contributioun to the lordis of sessioun, and for obeying of the quhilk chairge he past to Fyf to have gottin silvir to pay the samin and thocht to have past ovir the walter thaireftir to Edinburgh and keipit the said assemblie. Nochttheles, he gat na silvir thair bot was constrainit (to saif him self fra the horne) to returne and pas ane uthir way to gait silvir for obedience of the kingis letters. Secundlie, allegit that he was diligent in repairing the kirk off Dunblane quhair his hors (on the quhilk he rydis) was ledane stennis thairto, inrespect of the quhilkis the said Mr Andro allegit that he could nocht be present at the last provinciall assemblie. The brethrein ordanis the saidis excuis to be proponit to the nixt provinciall assemblie, and the said Mr Andro betuix and the nixt sessioun day to consigne in the handis of James Duncansone, clark, iiij lib. x s. as for his penaltie the first and secund tyme thair

to remaine quhill the said excusis be discussit and the samin to be payit to collectar of sic penalteis gif the saidis excusis be repellit, and gif thai be admittit the said Mr Andro to have the said soume redelyverit to him againe.

Disobedient adulteraris: The quhilk day the brethrein, undirstandand sindrie adulteraris within the boundis of this presbytery that hes disobeyit the summondis thair of in nocht compeiring befor the provinciall assemblie of this province in Edinburgh the vij day of Aprill instant as thai war lauchfullie summond, thairfor ordanis thame, ilk ane of thame as thai ar merkit disobedient in the said summondis, to be summond of new to compeir befor this presbytery to heir and se thame selfis decernit to be excommunicat for thair contemp and malicious disobedience to the voice off the kirk conjonit with thair said fault of adultrie or ellis to allege ane ressonable [*sic*] quhy, with certificatioun and thai failze the brethrein will proceid and decern thame to be excommunicat, as said is, according to the Word of God and disceplein off the kirk havand the warrand thair of thairin.

Disobedientis in Dunblane parrochun: The samin day ane summondis beand producit deulie execute and indorsit upone Jonet Forfar and Margaret Hynd in Wolcoig chairgeing thame to have compeirit the said day to answer at the instance of the kirk for disobedience to the voice of the sessioun of thair awin parroche kirk of Dunblane and to underly disceplein thairfoir, ilk persone undir the paine of disobedience, quhilk personis being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, thairfor the brethrein ordanis the saidis personis to be summond *de novo* to the effect foirsaid, under the paine of excommunicatioun.

Haigy and Sandiris, fornicatouris: The quhilk day compeirit William Haigy in Tullibody and grantis fornicatioun withe Issobell Sandiris thair, for the quhilk he offiris him self in will of the kirk and offiris vj s. viij d. for ane penaltie thairfoir, and thairfor desyris his bairne gottin, as said is, to be baptezit. The brethrein ordanis the said William and Issobell to mak publict repentence for thair said fault, quhilk beand done ordanis Alexander Fargy to bapteis thair said bairne.

Burne and Allane, fornicatouris: The quhilk day compeirit Walter Burne and grantis him to have committit fornicatioun with

Catherein Allane in Clakmannan, for the quhilk he offiris willinglie in penaltie for the said fault vj s. viij d. and to satisfie the kirk and thairfor desyris his bairne to be baptezit. The brethrein ordanis the said Walter and Catherein to mak publict repentence for thair said fault in Clakmannan, quhilk beand done ordanis Alexander Fargy to bapteis thair bairne.

At Striviling the v day of May, 1584

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, James Andirsone, Mr Arthur Futhie, [Mr Andro Yung, Michael Lermonte, *deleted*], Alexander Fargy, ministeris; Maisteris Alexander Iull, Andro Murdo, brethir of exerceis; Johnne Duncansone, minister; Mr Alexander Chisholme, Robert Mentayth, ministeris; and Mr James Pont, elder.

Moderatour chosin: The quhilk day Mr Arthur Futhie, minister at Airthie, be voit of the hail brethrein present was chosin moderatour in this presbytery to the nixt provincially assemblie.

Patrik Layng: The samin day compeirit Patrik Layng and desyrit that the faultis fund in him concerning his office may be advysit with be the brether and inrespect of the lang suspentioun of him fra his office desyris that he may be restorit againe to the executioun of his office and promesis nevir to fall in the lyk of ony of the foirsaidis faultis in tymis cuming. The brethrein ordanis the said Patrik to mak publict repentence in the parroche kirk of Clakmannan quhair he committit the said faultis on Sondag the xvij day of May instant quhill thai be farther advysit and that Robert Mentayth, minister of Alvayth, ressave the same.

At Striviling the xij day of May, 1584

Presentes: Mr Arthur Futhie, James Andirsone, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Andro Yung, Michael Lermonte, Alexander Fargy, ministeris; Maisteris Alexander Iulle, Andro Murdo, brethir of exerceis.

Mr Andro Grahame: The quhilk day, the moderatour inquiryit the brethrein of Dunblane to declair quhair Mr Andro Grahame was, seing he hes bein absent fra this sessioun the last day thair of and this, quha answerit that as thai undirstude he was departit to the Mernis. Secundlie, being inquiryit quhen he teichit last in

Dunblane, ansorit that he teichit nocht thair sen his last cuming to Dunblane, viz., sen the moneth of December last. The brethrein continewis farther proceiding in the said mater quhill thai be farther advysit.

Issobell Merse in Dunblane: The quhilk day compeirit Issobell Merse in Dunblane and grantis hir delyvir of ane maidin bairne ix oulkis syne or thairby gottin on hir in fornicatioun (as scho allegis) be William McWillie, servand to the lady Rickartoun. Nochttheles the said Issobell confessis that the said William denyis the said bairne to be his and will nocht grant the samin without he be compellit. The said Issobell beand askit be the moderatour to declair quhw oft the said William hade carnall dell with hir, quha ansorit that he hade carnall dell with her twa sindrie tymis within aucht dayis, to uthir at midsomer last. The brethrein, at the desyr of the said Issobell, ordanis the said William to be summond *litteratorie* to answer at the said Issobellis instance to heir and se tryell tane in the said mater undir the paine of disobedience.

At Striviling the xix day of May, 1584

Presentes: Mr Arthur Fethie, Patrik Gillaspie, James Andirson, Mr Andro Yung, Robert Mentayth, Michaell Lermonthe, Alexander Fargy, ministeris; Mr Andro Murdo, brothur of exerceis, Alexander Balvaird, reder.

Patrik Layng: The quhilk day compeirit Patrik Layng and declairit to the brether that upone Sonday the xvij day of this instant he hade made publict repentence in the parroche kirk of Clakmannan for the faultis committit be him to Robert Mentayth, minister of Alvayth, quha was appointit be the brethrein to ressave the same according to the brethreinis ordinance made thairanent on the fift day of May instant in all pointtis, quhilk declaratioun the said Robert Mentayth testefeit to be of varetie and thairfor the said Patrik desyrit the brethrein to relax him fra the suspending of him fra his offeice in the ministrie and to readmit him thairto. The brethrein relaxis the said Patrik fra the said suspentioun and to the effect that thai may have perfyt tryell of the said Patrik in ministratioun of the sacramenttis and teiching of the Word of God appointis unto him ane text concerning baptisme, viz., in the

xxviij chaptur of the evangelist Mathow, beginnand at the 16 vers of the samin unto the end, to be teichit be him in the kirk of Striviling on the xxvj day of May instant at viij houris befor none.

Robert Mentayth, for absence fra the synnodall: The quhilk day the moderatour made intimatioun to Robert Mentayth that he was decernit be the last provinciall assemblie to pay iij libis., mony in penaltie for the secund fault in being absent fra the said assemblie, quhilk penaltie the moderatour desyrit him to pay presentlie according to the ordinance of the said assemblie. The said Robert answerit that the tyme of the said assemblie he was seik and thairfor mycht nocht be thair. The brethrein ordeinit the said Robert to consigne in thair clarkis handis the said penaltie, thair to remain quhill the said excuis be proponit in the nixt provinciall assemblie becaus this sessioun is nocht juge thairto, and gif the said excuis be nocht admittit be the said assemblie the said penaltie to be payit be the moderator, uthirwayis the said Robert Mentayth to have the said penaltie redelyverit againe to him self.

James Blacwod: The quhilk day compeirit James Blackwod, brothur to Sir William Blackwod, excommunicat, quha beand desyrit be the moderator to report quhat he had profetit his said brothur be confirence with him sen the xxij day of October last bypast according to his lycence thane grantit to him to that effect. The said James ansorit that he hade nevir confirence with his said brothur at na tyme sen the said day. Nochttheles he allegit he hade sindrie bissines to do with him concerning wrettis that was in his handis neciser to sindrie personis in the cuntrie, quhilk behovit of necessitie to be sein. Thairfor the said James desyrit lycence to pas to his said brothur anent the said wrettis quhen necessitie cravit and als to confer with him quhen tyme best servit, quhairbe he may be perswadit to renunce that damnable religioun of papistrie and imbrece the trew lycht of the evangell. The brethrein, yit as of befor, grantis lycence to the said James to pas with ane minister and ane elder conjunctlie to the presens of the said excommunicat, at sic tymis as thai thocht meit to confer with him anent the religioun, and quhen the said James hes to do with him in civill effairis that he pas to him his allane provyding that he mak adverteisment of befor to ane of the ministeris in Dunblane, and that the said James send the said excommunicat manis necesaris to him to his awin chalmir

allanirlic. And this lycence to indure to the sex day of October nixt allanirlic, and the nixt Twysday thaireftir the said James to report to this sessioun quhat he proffeittis the said Sir William Blackwod be his confirence with him.

[Hiatus in the register with the proscription of presbyteries by act of parliament in May 1584. Two blank folios follow.]

At Sterling the xxj day of Junij the yeir of God jm vc lxxxvj yeiris

Presentes: James Andirson, commissioner, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Arthur Fethie, Alexander Fargy, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull, ane brothur of exerceis.

Bischopp off Abirdein: The quhilck day ane summondis direct be the last generall assemblie of the kirk, beand productit dewlie execute and indorsit upone Mr David Cunynghame, bischop of Abirdein, chairgein him to compeir the said day befor us the brethrein of the presbytery of Sterling and the brethrein of the presbytery of Glasgw, to answer to the sclandiris conteinit thairin, speciallie concerning the abuse of his bodie with ane woman callit Elezabeth Suthirland (as is allegit), berand also commissione to the brethrein of the saidis presbyteriis to try the said sclandir of adultrie committit with hir or ony uther persone, as at mair lynth is conteinit in the said summondis. And we, the brethrein of the presbytery of Sterling, lukand for the comperance of the brethrein of the said presbytery of Glasgw to have conjonit with us in this assemblie to have tane tryell of the said Mr David concerning the sclandir abone writtin, according to the commissione foirsaid, nochttheles thai nor nane of thame compeirit, bot send the wretingis follwing, with ane burges man, quhilkis war productit, viz., ane misseive wreting berand in effect that thai war advertesit be an letter of the said Mr Davidis that he was nocht able to keip this day bot that he wald keip the xxj day of the nixt moneth and thairfor desyrit that the said mater sould be continewit etc., and siclyk thair was productit ane summondis direct fra the said presbytery of Glasgw dewlie execute and indorsit upone the said Elezabeth Suthirland, dochtir to William Suthirland, messinger, chairgeing hir to compeir this day to answer concerning the

sclandir abone writtin, as at mair lynthe is conteinit thairin. Attour, thair was productit ane extract of proces deducit befor the sessione of the kirk of Glasgw concerning the said adultrie allegit committit be the said Mr David with the said Elezabeth Sutherland undir the subscriptione of Mr Johnne Allansone, scribe to the said sessioun, as it beris in the self. The saidis Mr David and Elezabeth Sutherland, being oft tymes callit, compeirit nocht, bot Cathrein Wallace, spous to the said Mr David, compeirit and productit ane wret misseive wretein of hir husbandis direct to the brether of the saidis presbyteriis berand in effect that he was havallie trublit with seiknes, nochtwithstanding quhairof he hade travellit with grit painis to Falkland quhairfra the said wretting is direct, quhair he was contra-mandit to cum farther inrespect of present circumstancis and conventionne at Edinburgh, quhairupone his majestie desyrit to wret to the brethir foirsaid to crave thair ovirsyght for the present and that it wald plais thame inrespect of his former honestie and lait purgatiounis in the said mater of sclandir ather to refer the samin to the nixt assemblie generall, or ellis to ane new dyet quhen he mycht mair assuritie travell, as the samin of the deat at Falkland the xx day of *Junij*, 1586 at mair lynthe beris. The brethrein of the presbytery of Sterling, havein sein the haill wrettis productit and being advysit with the said commissione, findis thame selffis nocht jugis competent to the sclandir abone wrettin this day berassone of the absence of the brethrein of the presbytery off Glasgw, quha ar conjonit with the brethrein of this presbytery conjunctlie to be jugis in this mater and na uthirwayis, as the said commissione beris expreslie, and swa we, the brethrein present, nocht beand jugis competent, could nocht proceed nor continew the said mater nather yit ordane the saidis proceis to be summond of new and thairfoir lavis aff farther proceidein in the said mater quhill the brethrein of the kirk be farther advysit thairto.

At Sterling the xxviii day of *Junij*, 1586

Presentes: James Andirson, commissioner, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Arthur Fethie, Alexander Fargy, ministeris; and Mr Alexander Iull, ane brother of exerciseis.

Mr James Cokburne: The quhilk day the brethrein, undirstanding

that Mr James Cokbrun is provydit to the personage and vicarage of the kirk of Muckert, quhilkis ar benefecis of cure, and yit mackis nocht residence and serveice at the kirk thair of as becumis, as is allegit, thairfoir ordanis the said Mr James Cokbrun to be summond *litteratorie* to compeir befor the brethrein to mak declaratioun and informatione to thame of the forme and manir of his admissioun to the saidis benefecis and to that effect to bring with him and produce his presentatione thairunto, his collatione thairupone, gif he ony hes, with all uthir richtis and documentis that he hes concerning the said mater to be sein and considerit be thame undir the paine of disobedience.

At Sterling the fyft day of July, 1586

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Arthur Futhie, Alexander Fargy, ministeris; and Mr Alexander Iull, ane brother of exerceis.

Mr James Cokburn: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit upone Mr James Cokburn dewlie execute and indorsit chairgeing him to compeir the said day to mak declaratione to the brethrein of the forme and manir of his provisioun and admissioun to the personage and vicarage of the kirk of Muckert and to that effect to bring with him and produce his presentatione thairunto, his collatione thairupone gif he ony hes, with all uthir rychtis and documentis that he hes concerning the said mater to be sein and considerit be the brethrein under the paine of disobedience, quhilk Mr James being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. Thairfor the brethir ordanis the said Mr James to be summond of new to the effect foirsaid undir the paine of excommunicatione.

At Sterling the xix day of July, 1586

Presentes: James Andirson, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Arthur Fethie, Andro Forester, Robert Mentayth, Alexander Fargy, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull and Mr Henrie Layng, brethir of exerceis.

Concerning baptisme: The brethrein undirstanding that mony personis presentis nocht thair bairnis to be baptesit on the nixt sermond day eftir thair birthe, as aucht to be, bot deleyis and

continewis the same ane lang speace thaireftir on sum warldlie respectis, quhairthrw sindrie bairnis departis this lyf without the said sacrament in default of the parentis that will nocht present thair bairnis and crave the samin quhen it is offrit ilk sermond day, as lykwys eftir the parentis hes deleyit the craving of the sacrament in dew tyme, as said is, sum of thair bairnis thruch seiknes being at the departing furth of this lyf, the parentis quhairof urgis the minister with inoportune sute to bapteis thair bairnis in tymis nocht convenient for ministratioun of the samin, for remade quhairof, it is ordeinit be the haill brethrein that all personis within the boundis of this presbytery, namelie, mareit personis present thair bairnis to baptisme on the nixt sermond day immediatlie eftir the birthe thairof, and that na persone urge ane minister to bapteis ony bairne aff ane sermond day nor at ane uthir tyme, bot the speciall tyme appointit for ministratioun of the samin, and ordanis ilk minister to mak intimatioun of this ordinance publickie to thair congregatioun on ane Sunday immediatlie eftir the sermond that nane pretend ignorance of the samin.

Approbatioun off certane actis made of befor concerning polecie: The quhilk day the brethrein undirstanding that thair is certan gude actis made in this presbytery concerning polecie and gude ordur to be observit be the ministrie within the boundis thairof, quhilkis ar becumit in oblivione inrespect of the lang speace sen thay war made, thairfor the brethrein present having revesit the samin actis and being advysit thairwith hes approvit and allwit the actis follwing respective and haill effect thairof, viz., in the first, ane act made on the xxix day of August 1581 berand that na minister ministrat mariage within brugh aff ane sermond day and in landwart aff ane Sunday in tyme of preichein, and that na minister marie personis quhairof nane of thame is his parrochinnaris albeit thay bring testimoniallis without lycence of the presbytery. Item, ane act made on the ix day of Januar 1581 contenand penalteis to be payit be the brethrein that faillis to mak and ad in the exerceis quhen it fallis thame in the cathalog. Item, ane act made on the xvj day of Januar 1581 contenand ane penaltie to be payit be ilk brother that repairis nocht to be exerceis ilk day appointit to the making thairof. Item, ane act made on the vj day of Februar 1581 commanding that ilk minister declair to the brethrein quhat text thai teiche and

quhat commentaris thai follw. Item, ane act made on the xij day of Merche 1582 commanding ilk minister to caus to execute all summondis direct from the presbytery on ony of his parrochinnaris and report the samin deulie execute and indorsit. Item, ane act made the samin day forbidding all ministeris to ministrat baptisme, mariage nor exame nane of his congregatioun nor use na uthir charge on the Twysday that may withhauld thame frome the exerceis undir the paine of suspentione and that the communione be nocht ministrat on that day callit peace day of auld nor yit within the speace of Lenterun. Item, ane act made on the xxvj day of Merche 1583 commanding ilk minister to register all mariagis, baptezine of bairnis, personis that deis within the parrochun and almws collectit to the pure with the distributione thairof, as lykwys to produce thair buikis of disceplein with the register of the foirsaidis befor the presbytery twys ilk yeir to be veseit and redelyverit againe to the minister producer thairof. Item, ane act made on the ix day of Aprill 1583 making intimatioun of ane ordinance of the synnodall assembleie dischairgeing haulding of mercattis on Sondagis, and that ilk minister proceid with the sensuris of the kirk againis the contravenaris thairof beand his awin parrochinnaris. Item, ane act made on the vij day of May, 1583 contenand intimatioun of ane act of the generall assembleie forbidding the making of ony statuttis in ecclesiasticall assembleis bot sic as ar grundit on the actis of the generall assembleie. Item, ane act made on the xxiiij day of December 1583 forbiddand all ministeris within the boundis of this presbytery to marie ony personis that ar accompaneit to the kirk with pyperis or fidleris, etc., on that day that thay ar swa accompaneit bot to suffir thame pas hame unmareit, undir the paine of disceplein to be execute againis the minister that dois utherwayis. And the brethrein in this assembleie commandis and ordanis that the saidis actis abone specefeit be keipit and observit in all pointis within the boundis of this presbytery, according as thai bear in thame selffis respective, undir the painis conteinit in thame to be execute on the contravenaris thairof.

At Sterling the second day of August, 1586

Presentes: James Andirson, Patrik Gillaspie, Robert Mentayth,

Mr Arthur Fethie, Alexander Fargy, Mr Andro Yung, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull, Mr Henrie Layng, brethir of exerceis.

Crawfurd contra Cunynghame: The quhilk day compeirit Robert Crawfurd at the milne of Innerallone within the parrochun of Lecrop, quha in the name of Margaret Crawfurde, his dochtir, productit ane summondis dewlie execute and indorsit upone Thomas Cunynghame, spous to the said Margaret in the law, within the said parrochun, chargeing him to compeir the said day to heir and sie him self decernit and ordeinit to desyr the sacrament of baptisme to ane mane chyld, quhairof the said Margaret is delyvir in the moneth of November last gottin on hir be the said Thomas hir husband, as scho allegis, or ellis to schaw ane ressonablle caus quhy the samin sould nocht be done undir the paine of disobedience. Compeirit the said Thomas Cunynghame and allegit he wald nocht desyr the said bairne to be baptesit becaus it was nocht his. The brethrein, being advysit with the said answer, ordanis him ather to intent actione of devorcement befor the juge ordinar againis his said spous for gaitting of the said bairne in adultrie and thairby to pruif hir ane hure, or ellis acknowlege and confes the said bairne to be his awin and to do thairfoir as apperteinis, to the quhilk he was desyrit be the moderatour to gif his answer quhilk of the twa he wald do. The said Thomas desyrit that he mycht have rassonablle tyme to advys with his answer. The brethrein assignis to him the ix day of August instant to gif his answer to the heddis foirsaidis, he warnit thairto *apud acta*, and ordanis the said Margaret Crawfurd to be summond *litteratorie*.

At Sterling the ix day of August, 1586

Presentes: James Andirsone, commissionar; Patrik Gillaspie, Alexander Fargy, ministeris; Mr William Moresone, Mr William Patone, Mr Alexander Iull, brethir of exerceis. [No minutes.]

At Sterling the xxij day of August, 1586

Presentes: James Andirsone, commissionar; Mr Andro Yung, Alexander Fargy, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull, Patrik Layng,

William Sterling, William Moresone, Mr Henrie Layng, Mr William Patone, brethir of exerciseis.

William Sterling: For the bettir tryell of Williame Sterling gif he be meit and abill in literatur and conversatione to bruik office as ane pastur in the kirk for ministratioun of the Word and sacramentis, the brethrein appointis him to teiche prevatlie on the xij chaptur of Mathowis evangell, beginning at the 38 vers thairof on the vj day of September nixt, according to the desyr of the kingis majesteis letter.

Margaret Crawford contra hir husband: The quhilk day ane summondis beand productit dewlie execute and indorsit upone Margaret Crawford and Thomas Cunynghame, hir spous, chairgeing thame to compeir the said day to heir and sie that mater concerning the baptezein of the bairne quhairof the said Margaret is delyvir proceed quhair it lest, viz., to heir and sie the said Thomas declaratioun concerning the heddis quhairon he tuke to advys conteinit in the last act, compeirit the said Thomas Cunynghame and allegit that his said spous be hir ayth wald nocht afferm that the said man chyld quhairof scho was delyvir was gottin be him, and that scho hade carnall deill with na uthir man bot him, quhilkis gif scho will afferm be hir grit ayth the said Thomas promesis to accep the said bairne as his awin, present the samin to the sacrament of baptisme and do thairfor as apperteinis ane father to do to his child, and gif scho confes uthirwayis, the said Thomas protestit that he may be decernit fre thairof, and the said Margaret Crawford siclyk compeirand personallie gaif hir aithe and desyrit ane day to be assignit to hir to advys with hir depositione. The brethir assignis to hir the penult day of this instant moneth to depone, parteis warnit *apud acta*.

Fornicaturis, Levingstone, Richie: The quhilk day compeirit Johnne Levingstone, brother to Gabriell Levingstone of Tirrintirrane, and grantis him to have committit fornicatioun relaps with Jonet Richie in Tirrintirrane and continewit lang in cumpany with hir to the grit offence of God and scandir of his kirk, for the quhilk he confessis him self to be sorrie and repentis, and for avoyding of the quhilk in tymis cuming the said Johnne with consent of the said Gabriell, his brother, promesis to compleit mariage with the said Jonet, lauchfullie as effeiris, in feace of hallie kirk betuix and the fyft day of October nixt and promesis with all diligence to act

cautione in the commissaris buikis of Sterling that he sall compleit mariage, as said is, betuix and the said day undir the paine of fourtie poundis mony to be tane up in name of the brethrein of this presbytery and convertit *ad pios usus* quha sall receive his cautionar thair of quhow oft neid beis. In respect of the quhilk, the brethrein ordanis (eftir the said cautione be actit, as said is) that the said Johnne Levingstone sall mak publict repentence in his awin parroche kirk thre soverall Sondagis and thaireftir his bairne to be baptezit, with certificatioun gif the mariage be nocht compleit betuix and the said day the said repentence salbe hauldin as na repentence bot thaireftir sall satisfie in repentence as ane adulterar and his said cautionar to undirly the penaltie foirsaid.

Sinclaris: Compeirit Ewmond and Hercules Sinclaris, sonnys to Mr Alexander Sinclar in Denny within the parrochun of Falkirk, quha in the name of thair said fathir exponit and declairit to the brethrein that it was of veritie that of auld in tyme of papistrie, the said Mr Alexander was mareit on Hellesone Hairstennis in ane hous privallie be ane preist in presens of certane witnessis, quhilk woman contenwallie sensyne hes remanit with him and hes borne to him the said Ewmond and Hercules, and the said Mr Alexander havand rycht and titill to sindrie thingis that will succed to his narrest and lauchfull air eftir his deceis and that the witnessis present at the completing of the said mariage ar now all departit furth of this lyf, and thairfor thair is nane levand presentlie to preive the samin, and swa eftir the said Mr Alexander deceis, we, his lauchfull bairnis gottin on his said wyf, may be defraudit of our lauchfull rycht alleging us to be bot bastardis for the caus foirsaid, and thairfor for detecting of the trewth to the glorie of God and removing of all occasione of scandir furth of the cuntrie (gif ony be), allegeand thame nocht to be mareit and swa lye in hurdome, maist earnestlie desyris the brethrein to gif command to Andro Forester, thair minister of Falkirk, to accept and ressave the confessionis of the said Mr Alexander and Hellesone Hairstennis concerning the trewth and manir of thair said mariage publictly in thair parroche kirk on ane Sondag in the tym of the convention on the congregatioun to heir the Word and thay gevand full consent, as is requisit, that the said minister solemnizat the band of matremony of new betuix thame according to the ordur reformat. The brethrein,

being advysit with the said petitione, ordanis the said Andro Forester to do as is requyrit in all, he proclamand ane promeis made betuix the said Mr Alexander and Hellesone Hairstenis of befor lauchfullie according to the ordur and na impediment being opponit in the contrar.

At Sterling the penult day of August, 1586

Presentes: James Andirson, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Arthur Fethie, Robert Mentayth, Mr Adame Merschell, Mr Alexander Wallace, Andro Forester, Mr William Sterling and William Sterling, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull, Mr Henrie Layng, Mr William Moresone and Mr Williame Patoun, brethir of exerceis.

Margaret Crawford contra hir husband: In the terme assignit to Margaret Crawford, the spous off Thomas Cunynghame, to depone gif hir bairne quhairof scho was last delyvir be hir husbandis or nocht, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the last act made thairanent, compeirit the said Margaret and hir husband personallie, quhilk Margaret deponit be hir grit aythe that hir said bairne, quhairof scho was last delyvir, was gottin on hir be hir said husband and na uther mane and that scho hade carnell deill with na uthir mane bot him inrespect of the quhilk deposite and of the said Thomas promeis conteinit in the last act, the brethrein ordanis him to present the samin bairne to baptism and to desyr the samin to be baptisit as his awin bairne and farther to do thairfoir as apperteinis ane fathir to do his chylde.

At Sterling the vj day of Semptember [*sic*], 1586

Presentes: James Andirson, Mr Arthur Fethie, ministeris; Mr Robert Bruce, Mr Alexander Iull, Mr William Moresone, brethir of exerceis; and Johnne Schaw of Bruigh.

William Sterlingis tryell: The quhilk day being appointit to William Sterling to gif ane tryell of his doctrein on the text appointit to him privallie, the said William in presens of the brethrein foirsaid teichit on the said text, viz., on the xij chaptur of Mathowis evangell, beginnand at the 38 vers thairof inclusive to the 41 vers of the samin exclusive, quhais doctrein being hard and the brethreinis judgementis thairon cravit, the samin w[a]s fund sound sound [*sic*]

aggreing with the annalegie of fayth. Yit for farther tryell of his habilitie to continew in the ministrie, the brethrein admittis and ordanis him to teiche publictlie in the exerceis, quhen he salbe commandit, and presentlie dischairgis him frome usein of all farther functione in the kirk bot onlie to reid in his awin kirk allanirlie ay and quhill he be admittit of new to farther [functione].

At Sterling the xxvij day of September, 1586

Presentes: James Andirson, Patrik Gillaspie, Andro Forester, Robert Mentayth, Alexander Fargy, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull, Mr William Moresone and Mr William Patoun, brethrein of exerceis.

Mr Henrie Layng: The quhilk day compeirit Duncane Narne of Lokishill quha, for him self and in name of the particular sessione of the kirk of S. Niniane, exponit and declairit to the brethrein the grit seiknes and infirmitie that thair minister, Patrik Gillaspie, was subject unto quhairthrw he was inable to use and exerceis his offeice in thair kirk as becumis, quhilk the said Patrik confessit to be of trewth and thairfor the said Patrik Gillaspie, minister foirsaid, and Duncan Nairne, in name of the said sessioun, nominat and presentit Mr Henrie Layng, ane yung man of honest report newlie returnit frome the schollis, quhome thay desyr the brethrein to try in literatur and conversatione, quha being fund meit and able to the effect undirwrittin desyris that he be admittit pastour and coadjutor with the said Patrik Gillaspie at thair said kirk during the said Patrikis lyf tyme. Quhilk desyr being hard be the brethrein and jugit rassonablle and thay according to the said desyr willing to tak tryell first of his doctrein and being advysit with his doctrein teichit alreddie in thair presens in form of exerceis findis the samin sound and proffitablle and ar satisfeit with him concerning that point of tryell and for farther tryell of him concerning his forme of doctrein in pulpet withe applicationis as effeiris. The brethrein ordanis and appointis him to teiche on the xx chaptur of Mathowis evangell, beginnand at the 18 vers inclusive, and to tak furth according to his awin jugement and that in the kirk of Sterling on Thurisday the vj day of October nixt, beand ane ordinar preiching day in the said toun.

At Sterling the vj day of October, 1586

Presentes: James Andirsone, commissioner; Mr Arthur Fethie, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr William Sterling, Mr Andro Yung, his assessuris; Andro Forester, Alexander Fargy, Mr Alexander Wallace, Mr Alexander Chisholme and William Drummond, ministeris; and Mr Alexander Iull, ane brothur of exerceis.

Tryell off Mr Henrie Layng: The quhilk day Mr Henrie Layng having teichit publictlie in the pulpet of Sterling in presens of the said brethrein and congregatioun of the said brugh on the 20 chaptur of Mathowis evangell, beginning at the 28 vers thair of inclusive to the 30 vers of the samin exclusive, according as he was ordeinit be the presbytery for tryell of his forme of publict doctrein with applicationis as effeiris, the brethreinis jugementis being cravit thairon, he was fund sound in doctrein and appeirit to have gude giftis abill to proffeit in the kirk, and the brethrein is satisfieit with him concerning the said point of tryell and remittis him to be farther tryit on the commone placis and grundis of religione and pointis thairto, the x day of November nixt.

At Sterling the xj day of October, 1586

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, Alexander Fargy, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull, Mr Henrie Layng and Mr William Moresone, brethir of exerceis. [*No minutes.*]

At Sterling the xvij day of October, 1586

Presentes: James Andirsone, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Arthur Fethie, Andro Forester, Alexander Fargy, Johnne Duncansone, William Drummond, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull, Mr Henrie Layng, Mr William Moreson, brethir of exerceis.

Triall off Mr Adame Mairschell: The quhilk day Mr Adame Mairschell having teichit on the ordinar text of the exerceis, viz., on the fyft chaptur to the Hebrwis at the beginning to the 5 vers thair of exclusive, on the quhilk the brethrein jugementis being cravit according to the ordur, the samin doctrein was fund to be aggreabill with the annalegie of fayth bot nocht sufficient in expositione of the said text as becumis, nather yit hes he attenit to

the purpois and mening of the apostill thairintill and thairfor concerning this point of his tryell in exerceis, the brethrein jugis him nocht meit to continew a minister in the kirk, yit for farther knowlege of the said Mr Adame in his doctrein the brethrein ordanis him to teiche privallie on the first chaptur of Markis evangell beginning at the 4 vers and to tak swa meikill as he plasis, and that in form of publick doctrein with the applica[tio]nis as apperteinis, and this to be done on the first day of November nixt in presens of the brethrein.

At Sterling the xxv day of October, 1586

Presentes: James Andirsone, Patrik Gillaspie, Alexander Fargy, Robert Mentayth, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull, Mr Henrie Layng, Mr William Moresone, brethir of exerceis.

Patrik Layng: According to ane act of the last synnodall assemblee of this province commanding the brethrein of this presbytery to try and examin Patrik Layng and utheris in this presbytery concerning thair doctrein and conversatione, the brethrein ordanis the said Patrik to teiche prevallie on the fyft chaptur of the epistill to the Romanis at the beginning thair of in forme off exerceis on the viij day of November nixt, quhairbe the brethrein may undirstand gif he be profitablie in the kirk and worthie to continue as ane pastor thairin or nocht.

At Sterling the first day of November, 1586

Presentes: James Andirsone, Mr Arthur Fethie, Andro Forester, Mr Alexander Wallace, Mr Adame Merschell, ministeris; and Mr Alexander Iull, ane brother of exerceis.

Tryell off Mr Adame Merschell: The quhilk day being appointit to Mr Adame Merschell to gif ane tryell privallie on his forme of publick doctrein with applicationis on the text appointit to him, the said Mr Adame in presens of the brethrein foirsaid teichit on the said text, viz., on the first chaptur of S. Mark evangell, beginning at the 4 vers inclusive to the 7 vers of the samin exclusive, quhais doctrein bein hard and the brethrein jugementis thairon cravit, the samin was fund sound aggreing with the annalogie of fayth bot insafar as thay hard of the said Mr Adame as yit concerning his

doctrein specialle this point of tryell, the brethrein juges him nocht meit to continew as minister in the kirk. Nochttheles, for farther knowlege of his habilitie, he is ordeinit to teiche privallie in forme of exerceis on the xj chaptur of S. Mathowis evangell beginning at the 27 vers thairof inclusive to the end of the chaptur, upone the x day of November instant.

Tryell off Mr William Patone: The quhilk day, at the earnest sute of Mr William Patone to be tryit in publict doctrein to the effect he may have the brethreinis jugementis gif thay find apperance in him that he may be abill to be ane pastour in the kirk that he may the bettir addres him self thairunto, the brethrein findis the said Mr Williamis sute rassonablle and having hard him alreddy sindrie tymis in exerceis ordanis him to teiche publictlie in the pulpet of Sterling on the xvij day of November nixt upone the x chaptur of S. Mathowis evangell, beginning at the 15 vers thairof and to apply thairupone, as effeiris.

At Sterling the viij day of November, 1586

Presentes: James Andirsone, Johnne Duncansone, Robert Men-tayth, Alexander Fargy, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull, Mr Henrie Layng, Mr William Moresone and William Sterling, brethir of exerceis.

Tryell off Patrik Layng: The quhilk day being appointit to Patrik Layng to gif tryell of his doctrein in forme of exerceis privallie on the text appointit to him, the said Patrik in presens of the brethrein foirsaid teichit privallie on the said text., viz., on the fyft chaptur of the epistill to the Romanis at the beginning, quhais doctrein being hard and the brethreinis jugementis thairon cravit, the samin was fund to be sound doctrine, inrespect quhairof the brethrein admittis the said Patrik to teiche in the publict exerceis on the ordinar text thairof quhen he salbe commandit as for ane farther tryell of his habilitie to continew a pastur in the kirk.

At Sterling the x day of November, 1586

Presentes: James Andirsone, Mr Andro Yung, ministeris; and Mr Alexander Iull, ane brother of exerceis.

The quhilk day being appointit to Mr Henrie Layng to gif ane tryell of his knowlege in the commone placis and grundis of religione, compeirit the said Mr Henrie and being examinat thair-upon at lynthe was fund to have gude and rassonablle knowlege thairin, quhairanent the brethrein was satisfeit with him concerning that point of tryell. Nochttheles, inrespect of the few numbir present of the brethrein, thai continew his admissiōe to the xvij day of November instant.

At Sterling the xv day of November, 1586

Presentes: James Andirson, Johnne Duncansone, Andro Forester, Alexander Fargy, Robert Mentayth, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull and Mr William Moresone, brethrein of exerceis.; and Mr Henrie Layng. [*No minutes.*]

At Sterling the xvij of November [1586]

Presentes: James Andirson, Johnne Duncansone, Mr Andro Yung, Patrik Gillaspie, Alexander Fargy, Mr Alexander Wallace, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull and Mr William Moresone, brethrein of exerceis.

Tryell of Mr William Patone: The quhilk day being appointit to Mr William Patone to teiche publickly on the text appointit to him, the said Mr William having teichit thairon, viz., on the x chaptur of S. Mathowis evangell beginning at the 15 vers thair of publictly, as said is, with applicationis, his doctrine was fund be the brethrein sound, and thairby appeirit to thame that he salbe ane proffitabill instrument in the kirk, nochttheles continewis him, quhill the brethrein tak fatrher tryell as apperteinis as occasione sall offir.

Admissiōe of Mr Henrie Layng: The quhilk day being assignit be the brethrein to pronounce thair jugementis anent the admissiōe of Mr Henrie Layng coadjutor with Patrik Gillaspie, the said Mr Henrie being personallie present, and the brethrein advysit with the tryell tane of his habilitie to entir in the ministrie anent his teichein bayth in forme of exerceis and publict doctrein also concerning his qualificatiōe and knowlege of the commone placis and grundis of religione, as particular actis made of befor at lynthe beris, and

heiring na thing of his lyf and conversatione bot honestie findis him qualefeit and meit in the offeice eftir specefeit, sound in doctrein and as appeiris to have gude giftis abill to proffeit in the kirk, and thairfore upone the declaratione made be the said Patrik Gillaspie, minister at S. Ninianis kirk, of the infirmitie in his persone thruch seiknes and grit disais knawin to the brethrein quhairthrw he is inabillit to do his awin offeice at his said kirk as becumis, quhairby he and the particular sessione of his kirk ar movit to sute the said Mr Henrie Layng to be admittit coadjutor with him (he being fund qualefeit and meit), the brethrein hes admittit and admittis the said Mr Henrie Layng pastour and minister of the Word of God and sacramentis as coadjutor with the said Patrik Gillaspie during his lyftyme to the said kirk of S. Niniane, and eftir the said Patrikis deceis to continew as the brethrein of the said presbytery and parrochinnaris sall juge the said Mr Henrie meit and abill to sustein and exerceis the burdein and charge as only minister to the said parrochun, and the brethrein ordanis James Andirson, minister at Sterling, commissioner, to notefie thir presentis to the parrochinnaris of the said kirk on Sunday nixt immediatlie eftir the sermond and to desyr declaratione of thair consent to the said Mr Henreis admision, as said is, quha consentand thairto that he plaice him minister coadjutor with the said Patrik thairat, as said is, according to the ordur.

At Sterling the xxij day of November, 1586

Presentes: James Andirson, Mr Arthur Fethie, Patrik Gillaspie, Robert Mentayth, Alexander Fargy, Mr Henrie Layng, ministeris; and Mr Alexander Iull, ane brother of exerceis. [*No minutes.*]

At Sterling the xx day of December, 1586

Presentes: James Andirson, commissioner; Andro Forester, Robert Mentayth, Alexander Fargy, Mr Henrie Layng, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull, Mr William Moresone, brethir of exerceis.

The brethrein undirstanding that thair is ane gentilman dwelland within the brugh of Sterling, callit Waltir Buchannan, brother to Johnne Buchannan of Arnepriour, newlie returnit with ane Flemis

woman, allegit to be his wyf, furth of cuntreis quhair papistrie is publictlie professit and authoresit be sword and fyr, speciallie the cuntreis of Spaine and Flanderis and hes dwelt in the said brugh the speace of [blank] oulkis or thairby, quha, nor yit his wyf, hes at na tyme repairit to preiching nor prayeris in the kirk thair of sen thair cuming to the said toun, inrespect of the quhilkis, the brethrein ordanis the said Waltir Buchannan to be summond *litteratorie* to gif and declair ane confessione and declaratione of his fayth and religione undir the paine of disobedience to the voice of the kirk.

At Sterling the xxvij day of December, 1586

Presentes: James Andirson, Mr Arthur Fethie, Andro Forester, Alexander Fargy, Mr Henrie Layng, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull, and Mr William Moresone, brethir of exerceis.

Walter Buchannane: The quhilk day ane summond is beand productit deulie execute and indorsit upone Waltir Buchannan, brother to Johnne Buchannan of Arnepriour, chairgeing him to compeir the said day to gif ane confessione and declaratione of his fayth and religione undir the paine of disobedience, the said Waltir being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. Nochttheles, compeirit Alexander Saittone of Gargunnok, brother in law to the said Walter, quha earnestlie desyrit that the brethrein sould continew farther proceidein againis the said Walter to the thrid day of Januar nixt and in the mentyme the said Alexander promesit to confer with him. The brethir according to the saidis Alexander desyr, being ane godlie mane and weill reportit of, continewis the said mater to the thrid day of the said moneth of Januar and ordanis the said Alexander to confer with the said Walter and sic uthir off the brethrein, as the said Alexander sall requyr, and that the said Alexander report quhat he findis in him on the said iij day of Januar nixt.

At Sterling the iij day of Januar, 1586

Presentes: James Andirson, Johnne Duncansone, Patrik Gillaspie, Mr Henrie Layng, Mr Arthur Fethie, Alexander Fargy, Robert Mentayth, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull and Mr William Moresone, brethrein of exerceis.

Waltir Buchannan: In the term assignit to Alexander Saittone of

Gargunnok to report quhat he fand in confirrence hade with Waltir Buchannan, compeirit the said Alexander and declairit that he hade conferrit withe the said Waltir bot hade nocht gottin answer as yit worthie to be reportit, nochttheles desyrit the brethrein continew all farther proceeding, as of befoir, to the x day of Januar instant and promesis to caus James Andirsone, minister at Sterling, confer with the said Walter betuix and the said day, quha may try his religione and do as thay sall think meit. The brethrein grantis to the said Alexanderis desyr and ordanis the said James Andirsone to do according thairto and quhat he findis in the said Waltir Buchannan eftir confirrence hade with him that he report the samin to the brethrein the x day of Januar instant.

At Sterling the x day of Januar, 1586

Presentes: James Andirsone, Patrik Gillaspie, Andro Forester, Alexander Fargy, Mr Alexander Wallace, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull, Mr William Moresone, Mr William Patoun, brethrein of exerceis.

Waltir Buchannane: In the terme appointit to James Andirsone, minister, to report quhat he hade fund in conference hade with Waltir Buchannan, the said James Andirsone reportit that he hade conferrit with the said Waltir, quha schew him warldlie excuis that he could nocht subscrivye to our religione presentlie nor yit publictlie profes the samin, to wit, becaus the samin will be the tinsall of his wyffis heritage and leving, quhilk scho hade in Flandiris, and thairfor quhill he hade tane sum ordur thairanent he could nawayis imbraice our religione. To the quhilk, the said James ansorit (as he reportit) that the brethrein (as he belevit) wald nocht admit the samin for ony rassonable excuis for sindrie rassonis conteinit in the Word of God, quhilk he declairit to him in particular, and thairfor in the name of God admonesit him to obey his maistir, Jesus Christ, and randir obedience to the trewth, of quhome thane he could gait na direct answer; and thairfor James Andirsone delyvirit in the handis of Alexander Saittone, his brother in law, quha contenwis oft tymis in cumpanie with the said Waltir, the confessione of fayth and to schow to the said Waltir and caus him advys thairwith that thaireftir be the bettir advysment he may gif answer

to the brethrein. And siclyk compeirit Robert Buchannan of Lany and testefeit the said report to be of varetie bot allegit that the said Waltir hade bot varie laitlie sein the said confessione of fayth and thairfor was nocht weill advysit thairwith, as yit, and thairfor desyris that farther proceeding againis the said Waltir may be continewit to the xvij day of this instant moneth that he may in the mentyme advys the bettir. The brethrein willing rather to win the said Waltir thane to los him grantis continewatioun to the said xvij day of this moneth and exhortis the said Robert to caus the said Waltir confer with sum of the brethrein on thais thingis quhairof he douttis and that he compeir the said day and gif his answer to the brethrein.

Johnne Harrwar, incestus: The quhilk day compeirit Johnne Harrwar, in Brydiswallis in Forrest within the parrochun of Clakmannan, and confessis him to have committit huredum in gaittein of ane bairne with Jonet Maistirtoun, brother dochtir to Elezabeth Patok, with quhome siclyk he confessis he gat ane uthir bairne in fornicatioun. Inrespect of the quhilk confessione, the brethrein findis that the said Johnne hes committit incest with the said Jonet Maistirtoun, being sib to the said Elezabeth Patok, with quhome he hade siclyk carnell deill of befoir within the degreis defendit be the Word of God, and eftir the moderatour hade schawin to the said Johnne the grevusnes of his offence, he declairit signis of repentence and desyrit his minister to be commandit to baptis his bairne gottin in incest as said is. The brethrein ordanis the said Johnne Harrwar to act cautione in the buikis of the commissar of Sterling that he sall compeir befoir the nixt synnodall assemblee of this province to be haldin in Dunblane the first Twysday of Aprill nixt, thair to ressave injunctionis to be injonit to him for the said incest and that he sall obey the samin undir the paine of xl libis. And thaireftir, the said Jonet Maistirton compeiris siclyk and schawis signis of repentence and causit act cautione in manir fairsaid. The brethrein ordanis that thaireftir the minister of Clakmannan baptis the said bairne gottin in incest, as said is.

At Sterling the xvij day of Januar, 1586

Presentes: Alexander Fargy, Robert Mentayth, Mr Arthur Fethie,

Mr Alexander Wallace, Mr Henrie Layng, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull, Mr Richard Wrycht, brether of exerceis.

Waltir Buchannan: In the terme assignit to Waltir Buchannan to gif answer of his fayth and religione upone his advysment hade with the confessione of fayth, the said Waltir being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. Nochttheles, compeirit Alexander Saittone of Gargunnok, quha, in the name of the said Waltir, desyrit that farther proceeding againis the said Waltir mycht be continewit to the xxiiij day of this instant moneth of Januar that in the mentyme he may be farther resolvit with the said confessione of fayth. Quhilk desyr the brethrein grantit, and ordanit the said Walter to compeir personallie befor thame the said xxiiij day of this instant moneth and gif his awin answer heirupone.

Jonet Maistirtoun, incestuus: The quhilk day compeirit Jonet Maistirtoun in Larbart furde within the parrochun of Clakmannan and grantis hir to have committit huredum with Johnne Harrwar, and confessis that scho knawis the said Johnne Harrwar to have gottin ane bairne of befor in fornicatioun with Elezabeth Patok, hir fathir sister. Inrespect of the quhilk confessione, the brethrein jugis the said Jonet to have committit incest with the said Johnne and thairfor the weghtines of hir offence being declairit, the said Jonet wald schaw na signis of repentence, and thairfor the brethrein continewis farther proceidein with hir quhill thai be farther advysit.

At Sterling the xxiiij day of Januar, 1586

Presentes: Patrik Gillaspie, Alexander Fargy, Andro Forester, Mr Alexander Wallace, Mr Henrie Layng, ministeris; Mr William Patoun, Mr Alexander Iull, Patrik Layng and Mr William More-sone, brethir of exerceis.

Waltir Buchannan: In the terme assignit to Walter Buchannan to compeir and gif ane confessione and declaratioun of his fayth and religioun, compeirit the said Waltir Buchannan and allegit as yit that he was nocht resolvit with the confessione of fayth to gif answer quhethir he wald subscribe the samin or nocht, and allegit farther that he was boun schortlie out of the cuntrie and thairfor desyrit the brethrein as yit to continew farther proceidin againis him ane gude rassonable speace, in the quhilk tyme he sould ather

remove him self aff the countrie or ellis compeir againe befor the brethrein on the day to be appointit be thame and gif answer quhethir he will subscryve the confessione of fayth subscryvit be the kingis majestie or nocht. The brethrein, willing to remove all occasione of sudden proceeding againis the said Waltir, quhilk utherwayis perchance he wald allege, continewis, yit as of befor, all proceiden againis him the speace of ane moneth, ordening him in the mentyme to desyr confirrence with sum of the brethir and advys with the said confessione of fayth, frequent the kirk in tyme of service, speciallie in tyme of preichein, and that he compeir befor the brethrein againe on the xxj day of Februar nixt and gif ane direct answer gif he will embreas our religione and subscryve the said confessione of fayth or ellis that he, betuix and the said xxj day of Februar, remove him self and his wyf furth of the cuntrie, according to the act of parliament made thairanent.

At Sterling the last day of Januar, 1586

Presentes: Mr Henrie Layng, minister; Mr Alexander Iull, Mr William Patoun and Mr William Moresone, brethir of exerceis. [No minutes.]

At Sterling the vij day of Februar, 1586

Presentes: Andro Forester, Robert Mentayth, Mr Henrie Layng, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull and Mr William Moresone, brethir of exerceis. [No minutes.]

At Sterling the xiiij day of Februar, 1586

Presentes: Johnne Duncansone, Mr Arthur Fethie, Robert Mentayth, Mr Henrie Layng, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull, Mr William Moresone and Mr Richerd Wrycht, brethir of exerceis. [No minutes.]

At Sterling the xxj day of Februar, 1586

Presentes: Mr Henrie Layng, Mr Andro Murdo, ministeris; Mr

Alexander Iull, Mr William Moresone and Mr Richard Wrycht, brethir of exerceis.

Waltir Buchannan: In the terme assignit to Waltir Buchannan, brother to Johnne Buchannan of Arnepriour, to compeir and gif ane confessione of his fayth and religione as he was ordeinit on the xxiiij day of Januar last bypast, the said Waltir being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. The brethir continewis farther proceidein againis him to ane mair full sessione.

Duncane and Trumbill: The quhilk day compeirit Johnne Duncan, sone of umquhill Brys Duncan in Boquhen, within the parrochun of S. Niniane, and Marione Trumbill, dochtir to umquhill Robert Trumbill in Gargunnok, within the samin parrochun, and productit ane bill of complent on Mr Henrie Layng, thair minister, berand in effect that thay compeirit befor the said Mr Henrie and confessit mutuall promeis of mariage was made betuix thame and thairfor desyrit him to proclame the samin according to the ordur that mariage mycht be solemnizat betuix thame, quha promesit to do the samin lyk as he did ainis and sensyne hes stayit. Quhilk Mr Henrie, being askit be the moderatour quhy he wald nocht proceid, ansorit that eftir he hade ainis proclamit the saidis personis Alexander Saittone of Gargunnok, heritur of the land quhairon the said Marione Trumbillis fathir dwelt, compeirit and allegit that he was left, be hir fathir, tutur and administratour to his bairnis and ovirman to his executouris to se that his movabll gudis war usit and imployit according to his lettir will and testament, quhilk offecis he hade tane on him and done according to the said umquhill Robertis lettir will, and farther allegit that the said Marione Trumbill hade made the said promeis of mariage to the said Johnne by his advys and consent, beand left tutour and administratour to hir, as lykwys by the consent of Alexander Trumbill in Flukhennis, hir brother, and all uthir hir friendis to hir grit hurt, having ane rassonabill portione of gair left to hir be hir father and weill imployit for hir weill to this present to marie the said Johnne, beand ane mane that hes na gair and als hes spendit all that he hade. Inrespect of the quhilk allegiance, the said Mr Henrie ansorit that he had stayit in farther proceiding in the said mater quhill the brethrein hade discussit the said allegiance. Compeirit the said Alexander Saittone and Alexander Trumbil land affermit the said

Mr Henreis report concerning thair said oppositione to be of varetie in all, and of new allegit the samin in presens of the brethrein. The said Marione Trumbill ansorit and allegit that scho was nocht bund to abyd be ony of hir freindis consent in the said mater becaus scho was of perfyte aige, viz., of xx yeir or thairby and thairfor was fre to marie the said Johnne nochtwithstanding of the said allegiance, and also the said Marione and Johnne confessit that thay hade carnall copulatione togethir, for the quhilk eftir the moderatour hade thratnit the jugementis of God thay appeirit to be penitent for thair said offence and offirit thame selffis in the will of the kirk thairfor, and desyrit the brethrein to repell the said allegiance made be the saidis Alexander Saittone and Alexander Trumbill inrespect of hir answer thairto, and to command the said Mr Henrie Layng to proceed in proclamatioun of thair bannis according to the ordur and thaireftir to thair mariage. The brethrein continewis the pronunsein of thair jugementis on the saidis allegiance to the vij day of Merche nixt, bayth the saidis parteis warnit thairto *apud acta*.

At Sterling the vij day of Mairche, 1586

Presentes: Alexander Fargy, Robert Mentayth, Mr Henrie Layng, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull, Mr William Moresone and Mr Richard Wrycht, brethir of exerceis.

Waltir Buchannane: The brethrein undirstanding that Waltir Buchannan, brother to Johnne Buchannan of Arnepriour, obtieit of the brethrein ane lang day to advys with the confessione of fayth betuix and the quhilk he was ordeinit ather to remove him self and his wyf af the cuntrie or ellis to compeir on the day appointit to him, viz., on the xxj day of Februar last bypast to gif direct answer of his fayth and religione, quha compeirit nocht the said day nather yit is removit aff the cuntrie, thairfor the brethrein ordanis him to be summond *litteratorie* to the effect foirsaid undir the paine of disobedience.

At Sterling the xiiij day of Merche, 1586

Presentes: Johnne Duncansone, Mr Alexander Wallace, Mr Henrie

Layng, ministeris; Alexander Fargy, minister; Mr Alexander Iull, Mr William Muresone and Mr Richard Wrycht, brethir of exerceis.

Waltir Buchannan: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit dewlie execute and indorsit upone Waltir Buchannan, brother to Johnne Buchannan of Arnepriour, chairgein him to compeir the said day to gif his answer gif he will subscribe the confessione of fayth subscrivit be the kingis majestie and his houshald and profes the religione thairin conteinit or nocht undir the paine of disobedience, quhilk Waltir being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. Thairfor the brethrein ordanis him to be summond of new to the effect foirsaid undir the paine of excommunicatione.

Jonet Maistirtoun, incestus: The quhilk day compeirit Jonet Maistirtoun in Larbert furd within the parrochun of Clakmannan and grantis hir to have offendit God in committing incest with Johnne Harrwar, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in ane uthir act made at Sterling the xvij day of Januar last bypast, for the quhilk the said Jonet schew signes of repentence and offirit to obey the kirk as thai wald command, and desyrit ane command to be gevin to Mr Alexander Wallace, minister of the said parrochun, to bapteis the bairne gottin on hir be the said Johnne in incest, as said is. The brethrein ordanis the said Jonet to act caution in the commissaris buikis of Sterling that scho sall compeir befor the nixt synnodall assembleie to be hauldin in Dunblane the first Twysday of Aprill nixt, thair to ressave injunctionis to be injonit to hir for hir said offence and to obey the samin undir the paine of xl libis., quhilk beand done the brethrein ordanis the said Mr Alexander Wallace to bapteis hir said bairne.

At Sterling the xxj day of Mairche, 1586

Presentes: James Andirson, Mr Henrie Layng, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull and Mr William Moresone, brethir of exerceis.

Waltir Buchannan: The quhilk day ane summondis beand dewlie execute and indorsit upone Waltir Buchannan, brother to Johnne Buchannan of Arnepriour, chairgein him to compeir the said day to gif his answer gif he will subscribe the confessione of fayth subscrivit be the kingis majestie and his houshald and profes the

religion thairin conteinit or nocht undir the paine of excommunicatioun, compeirit the said Waltir Buchannan and allegit that as he was nocht resolvit with the confessione of fayth and thairfor desyrit langer tyme to be assignit to him to advys with the samin. The brethrein, yit as of befoir, at his awin desyr continewis farther proceidein againis him to the iiij day of Aprill nixt, and in the mentyme ordanis him to advys with the confessione of fayth, confer with sum brethrein anent ony thing quhairof he douttis, frequent sermondis, and warnis him *apud acta* to compeir in the cathedrall kirk of Dunblane befoir the synnodall assembleie of this province to be haldin thairin the said iiij day of Aprill, and thair to gif ane confession of his fayth and religione, with certificatioun and he failze the said assembleie will proceid according to the Word of God, actis of our soverane lordis parliamentis and actis of the generall assembleie of the kirk.

At Sterling the xxviij day of Merche, 1587

Presentes: James Andirson, Mr Arthur Fethie, Robert Mentayth, Andro Forester, Alexander Fargy, Mr Henrie Layng, Mr Alexander Wallace, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull and Mr William Patone, brethrein of exerceis.

Impediment allegit againis mariage to be made betuix Johnne Duncan and Marione Trumbill: The quhilk day ane summondis of walkning being producit dewlie execute and indorsit upone Alexander Saittone of Gargunnok and Alexander Trumbill in Flukhennis chairgein thame to compeir the said day to heir and sie that mater concerning the impediment allegit be thame for staying of mariage to be compleit betuix Johnne Duncan in Boquhen and Marione Trumbill, sister to the said Alexander Trumbill, walknit and proceid quhair it lest, viz., to heir and se the brethreinis jugementis producit in the samin, the said Alexander Trumbill and Johnne Duncane compeirit personallie and the said Alexander Saittone being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. The said Alexander Trumbill was requyrit be the moderatour gif he hade ony farther to say befoir the pronunsein of the brethreinis jugementis on the allegiance alreddie made. He ansorit he hade nane. The brethrein, being advysit with the hail allegancis made *hinc inde*, findis na thing

relivant as yit allegit be the said Alexander Saittone nor Alexander Trumbill to stay the said mariage inrespect of Godis Word and answer made to the said allegiance, and thairfor ordanis Mr Henrie Layng, thair minister, to proceed in proclamatioun of the said promeis of mariage according to the ordur, and gif na farther impediment be opponit in the contrar that he solemnizat mariage betuix thame as apperteinis. Bot befor the compleiting of the samin, the brethrein ordanis the said Johnne Duncan and Marione Trumbill to mak publict repentence in thair parroche kirk of S. Niniane for the fornicatione committit be thame on ane Sondag in tyme of sermond as the particular sessione of the said kirk sall appoint, and als that thai pay ane penaltie for satisfactioun of the act of parliament made anent fornicatioun as thair particular sessione sall think meit, quhilkis beand done, that the said Mr Henrie proceed in mariage, as said is, gif na farther impediment be opponit in the contrar.

Robertsons contra Richie: The quhilk day ane summondis beand productit dewlie execute and indorsit upone Margaret Richie, dochtir to Thomas Richie, undir the castell wall of Sterling, chairgeing hir to compeir the said day to answer at the instance of Marjorie Robertsons in castell hill to ane complent gevin in be hir againis the said Margaret, compeirit the said Marjorie and productit the said summondis with ane bill of sclandir berand in effect that the said Margaret upone the vij day of Merche instant sclandirit hir and Hellein Aissone, hir oy, in thir wordis, sayand to the said Marjoreis self that scho hade tane thair cowis mylk fra thame and thane instantlie askit the samin fra hir agane for Godis saik. On the quhilk wordis the said Margaret Richie being examinat, scho confess scho said the samin, according to the bill in all, and desyrit ane day to be assignit to hir that scho may gif answer gif scho will tak upone hand to preive that the said Marjorie hes tane away the milk fra hir saydis cow be wichcraft or nocht. The brethir assignis to the said Margaret to gif hir answer on the xvij day of Aprill nixt, bayth the parteis warnit *apud acta*, and the said Marjorie Robertsons past fra the persute of the remanent sclandir conteinit in the said bill on hir oy, Hellein Aissone.

Mr William Patone: The quhilk day compeirit Mr William Patone, ane brothir of this exerceis, quha exponit to the brethrein

that forsamkill as this lairge tyme past he hade exercesit with the brethrein and teichit publict doctrein, as he was appointit, hoiping to have bein placit ane pastour at sum kirk vacand within the boundis of this presbytery (gif the brethrein eftir tryell sould have fund him meit thairfoir) and now seing he can persave the par-rochinnaris of na kirk suddand him that hes ony rassonable stipend appointit to gif ane pastour, thairfor he desyris the brethrein to gif him thair testimoniall of his habilitie to entir in the ministrie insafar as thay have hard direct to Mr Andro Clayhillis, minister at Jedward, and Mr John Knox, minister at Mewrus, and utheris brethrein in thais boundis. The brethrein, having hard the said Mr Williamis desyr and being advysit with the tryell of his doctrein alreddie tane, ordanis the commissionar and scribe to direct ane testimoniall to the personis foirsaidis in thair namis, testefeand thair tryell of him privatlie and publictly in forme of exerceis sindrie tymis, as also in forme of publict doctrein publickly, quhairof thai hade gude lyking and hopis he salbe ane proffitabill instrument in the kirk and knawis na thing in his lyf and conversatione bot gude and honestie.

Upone the nixt day of exerceis the iiij day of Aprill, 1587 the synnodall assemblie of this province was haldin in Dunblane, quhair the brethrein of this exerceis was present.

At Sterling the xj day of Aprill, 1587

Presentes: James Andirsone, Johnne Duncansone, Mr Henrie Layng, Alexander Fargy, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull and Mr William Muresone, brethir of exerceis.

The said day James Andirsone propheceithe and Alexander Fargy addit thairto in the secund plaice, as thai war ordeinit.

Waltir Buchannan: The quhilk day ane summondis producit dewlie execute and indorsit upon Waltir Buchannan, brother to Johnne Buchannan of Arnepriour, chairgeing him to compeir the said day to gif ane confessione and declaratioun of his fayth and religioun and to subscriye the confessione of fayth subscrivit be the kingis majestie and his houshald undir the paine of excommunicatione, quhilk Waltir being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, bot Mr Henrie Layng, minister at S. Ninianis kirk, producit ane

misseive wreting send to him be Alexander Saittone of Gargunnok subscriyvit be the said Walter and him (as appeiris) berand in effect that he behovit to keip ane tryst appointit at Kippen this day for addressein of materis neidfull to be schortlie handlit for staying of grit inconveniencis amangis freindis, and thairfor excusand his absence fra this assemblie this day and promesand to be present in our nixt assemblie personallie and answer to sic thingis as he salbe demandit of, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the samin of the deat at Sterling, the x day of Aprill 1587. Quhilk wreting being red and considerit, the brethrein continewis farther proceidein againis the said Waltir to thair nixt assemblie, viz., the xvij day of Aprill instant in the samin forme and effect as the samin mater standis presentlie, with certificatione gif the said Waltir compeir nocht the said day, according to his said promeis, the brethrein will proceid thane as now, viz., to ordein the said Waltir to be summond of new *litteratorie* to heir and se him self decernit to be excommunicat as ane papeist, refuser to profes our religione, aggreing with the Word of God, and for disobedience to the kirk.

Adulteraris, Murdochsone, Waltir: Compeirit Thomas Murdochsone, within the parrochun of S. Niniane, and Euffame Waltir in Canglour, within the samin parrochun, and grantis thame to have committit adultrie togethir, the said Thomas beand mareit on Dorathie Buchannan, quha is yit alyve, and the said Thomas allegit that he mycht nocht compeir befor the last synnodall assemblie hauldin in Dunblane, being swa neir to Mentayth, quhair the men of Mentayth hantis oft tymis berassone of the dedlie fed that remanis betuix the Grahamis in Mentayth and him as ane freind to the laird of Lecky, and thairfor desyrit that his absence fra the said synnodall assemblie sould nocht be hauldin disobedience, and quhatsoever the brethrein wald injone for the said offence, the said Thomas and Euffame promesit to obey the samin. The brethrein dispensis with the absence of the said Thomas and Euffame fra the synnodall assemblie inrespect of the said deidlie feud knawin to be of varetie and ordanis thame and everie ane of thame to mak publict repentence in thair paroche kirk of S. Niniane ilk Sondag in thair awin clathis quhill the nixt synnodall assemblie to be hauldin in Sterling the first Twysday of October nixt, on the quhilk day the said Thomas and Euffame sall compeir befor the samin assemblie

in linning clathis and ressave sic farther injunctionis as thane salbe injonit to thame respective undir the paine of disobedience.

At Sterling the xvijj day of Aprill, 1587

Presentes: James Andirsone, Mr Arthur Fethie, Andro Forester, Robert Mentayth, Alexander Fargy, Mr Henrie Layng, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull and Mr William Moresone, brethrein of exerceis.

The quhilk day Alexander Fargy propheceithe and Robert Mentayth addit thairto in the second plaice, as thai war ordeinit.

Waltir Buchannan: In the terme appointit to Waltir Buchannan, brother to Johnne Buchannan of Arnepriour, be him self in his awin misseive wreting productit the last sessione to compeir in this assemblie to answer to sic thingis as he salbe demandit of, the said Waltir being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. Thairfor the brethrein ordanis the said Waltir to be summond *litteratorie* to heir and sie him self decernit to be excommunicat as ane papeist, refusar to profes our religione, aggreing with the Word of God, and to subscribe the confessione thair of subscrivrit be the kingis majestie and his houshould, and for disobedience to the kirk, with certificatioun and he failze the brethrein will proceid and decern, as said is, according to the Word of God.

Robertsons contra Richie: In the terme assignit to Margaret Richie, dochtir to Thomas Richie, to gif answer gif scho will tak upone hand to preive that Marjorie Robertsons hes tane away the milk fra hir fatheris cow be wichcraft or nocht, bayth the parteis comperand personallie, the said Margaret allegit that scho was nocht fullie advysit as yit with hir answer and thairfor desyris ane langer day to be assignit to hir to gif hir answer that in the mentyme scho may the bettir advys thairwithe. The brethrein yit as of befor continewis the said mater, and ordanis the said Margaret Richie ather to tak upone hand to preive hir said allegiance on the said Marjorie to be of varetie on the xxv day of Aprill nixt or ellis the brethrein will decern the said Margaret ane idolater and ane sclanderer and to undirly sic disceplein thairfoir as thane salbe appointit, bayth the parteis warnit thairto *apud acta*.

Concerning tryell of Patrik Layng, William Sterling, Mr Adam Merschell, Richard Fleming: The brethrein undirstanding that be

act of the last synnodall assemblie thay war ordeinit to proceid in tryell with Patrik Layng, William Sterling, Mr Adame Mairschell and Richard Fleming allegit ministeris, to try gif thay or ony of thame be abill and qualefeit to continew as pastoris and ministeris in the kirk, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said act, thairfor the brethrein ordanis all the saidis personis to be summond *litteratorie* to heir and sie farther tryell tane of thame and everie ane of thame concerning thair habilitie to bruik offeice as ministeris in the kirk, according to the said ordinance, undir the paine of disobedience.

Hendirsone, Forester: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit dewlie execute and indorsit upone Johnne Hendirsone, yunger, baxter in Sterling, Hellein Forester, dochtir to umquhill George Forester in Schiphaucht, and Hellein Donaldsone, hir mother, chairgeing thame and Johnne Hendersone, elder, thair cautionar, to compeir the said day to gif answer quhy mariage is nocht desyrit to be solemnizit betuix the said Johnne Henderson, yunger, and Hellein Forester according to thair promeis made thairanent with consent of the said Hellein Donaldson, mother to the said Hellein Forester, in presens of James Duncansone, reder at Sterling, and to heir tryell tane thairanent, compeirit the said Johnne Hendirsone, yunger, and allegit the caus of nocht desyring of the said mariage to be compleit was nocht in him bot in the said Hellein Forester and hir mother quha, and the said Johnne Hendirsone, elder, being oft tymis callit, compeirit nocht. Thairfor the brethrein ordanis the saidis personis disobedient to be summond of new to the xxv day of this instant moneth to the effect foirsaid undir the paine off excommunicatioun, the said Johnne Hendersone, yunger, warnit thairto *apud acta*.

At Sterling the xxv day of Aprill, 1587

Presentes: James Andirsone, Andro Forester, Mr Henrie Layng, Robert Mentayth, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull, ane brother of exerceis.

Robert Mentayth propheceithe and James Andirsone addithe thairto in the plaice ordinar of Mr Alexander Wallace, quha was nocht advertesit to keip the samin and thairfor it is jugit that he may nocht justlie be accusit for neglecting of the second plaice.

Hendirsone, Forester: The quhilk day ane summondis beand productit dewlie execute and indorsit upone Hellein Forester, dochtir to umquhill George Forester in Schiphaucht, Hellein Donaldsone, hir mother, chairgeing thame and Johnne Hendirsone, elder, baxter, to compeir the said day to gif answer quhy mariage is nocht desyrit to be solemnizit betuix Johnne Hendirsone, yunger, baxter in Sterling, and the said Hellein Forester according to ane promeis made thairanent be thame with consent of hir said mother etc., undir the paine of excommunicatioun, compeirit the said Johnne Henderson, yunger, as he quha was warnit to this day *apud acta* in the last sessione and offirit to abyd tryell in the said mater. Compeirit siclyk the said Johnne Hendirsone, elder, and confessit that he become cautionar for performance of the said mariage be bayth the saidis parteis and offirit to undirly the brethrein jugementis thairanent. The saidis Hellein Forester and Hellein Donaldsone, being oft tymis callit, compeirit nocht. Thairfoir the brethrein ordanis the saidis personis disobedientis to be summond to the secund day of May nixt to heir and se thame selfis decernit to be excommunicat for thair contemp and disobedience to the kirk with certificatioun and thai failze the brethrein will proceid and decern, as said is, according to Godis Word, etc., the saidis Hendirsonis warnit thairto *apud acta*.

Robertsonsone contra Richie: In the terme assignit to Margaret Richie, dochtir to Thomas Richie, undir the castell wall of Sterling to gif answer gif scho will tak upone hand to prove that Marjorie Robertsonsone hes tane away the milk fra hir fatheris cow be wichcraft or nocht, bayth the parteis compeirand personallie, the said Margaret Richie refusit to prove hir said allegeance and thairfor refarrit hir self in the will of the brethrein for hir said wordis. The brethrein, being advysit with the said Margaretis confessione of the wordis abone specefeit and of hir confessione that scho askit the said milk againe fra the said Marjorie for Godis saik, findis the said Margaret to have committit idolatrie in seiking fra ane creatur, viz., the said Marjorie Robertsonsone, quhilk scho aucht onlie to have socht fra the Creator and findis hir also ane sclanderer of the said Marjorie in calling hir ane wiche, in effect, quhilk scho could nawayis preive to be of varetie, and thairfor the brethrein ordanis the said Margaret for hir said idolatrie to ask God forgevenes for the same and the

congregatioun of Sterling, quhome scho hes sclandirit thairby, publictlie in the kirk of Sterling upone Sonday nixt immediatlíe eftir the sermond and that scho than instantlie ask the said Marjorie forgevenes for sclandiring of hir innocentlie and confes that in swa doing scho offendit hir and now to grant scho knawis na thing to hir bot ane honest woman. [*In margin* : Satisfait in all. J. Duncansone.]

Waltir Buchannan: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit dewlie execute and indorsit upone Waltir Buchannan, brother to Johnne Buchannan of Arnepriour, chairgeing him to compeir the said day to heir and sie him self decernit to be excommunicat as ane papeist, refusar to profes our religione, aggreing with the Word of God, and to subscriyve the confessione thair of, subscriyvit be the kingis majestie and his houshold, and for disobedience to the kirk, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis, the said Walter being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, and the brethrein, being advysit with the indorsatione of the said summondis, findis thairby the said Waltir to be summond at his dwelling hous in Kippen, and the brethrein beand incertane gif the said Waltir dwellis in Kippen or nocht, thairfor thai think gude to continew the pronunsein of the decret of excommunicatioun quhill he be summond of new, and ordanis that he be summond *litteratorie* in the samin forme and effect according to the summondis producit this day.

At Sterling the second day of May, 1587

Presentes: James Andirsone, Patrik Gillaspie, Robert Mentayth, Mr Henrie Layng, Mr Alexander Wallace, Mr Adame Merschall, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull and Mr William Moresone, brethir of exerceis.

Mr Alexander Wallace propheceithe, and the second plaice vaikithe in absence of Mr Arthur Fethie quha sould have occupyit the samin.

Tryell off William Sterling: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit dewlie execute and indorsit upone Patrik Layng, William Sterling, Mr Adam Merschell and Richard Fleming chairgeing thame to compeir the said day to heir and sie farther triall tane of thame and everie ane of thame concerning thair habilitie to bruik

offeice in the ministrie, as effeiris, according to the ordinance of the last synnodall assemblie of this province made thairanent, compeirit William Sterling and allegit that he is alreddie examinat in his habilitie schort syne and as yit hes nocht gottin declaratur of the brethrenis jugementis thairupone and thairfore desyrit the brethreinis jugementis gevin alreddy upone his former tryell to be veseit and the extract thair of gevin unto him. The brethrein thinkis gude that thair jugementis gevin on the said tryell tane be revesit, and appointis the xvj day of May instant to pronounce thair declaratur thairupone, the said William warnit thairto *apud acta*.

Mr Adame Merschell: Compeirit Mr Adame Mairschell and offiris him self to tryell. The brethrein, undirstanding that as yit he hes nocht teichit on the last text that was appointit to him on the first day of November last bypast, thairfor ordanis him to teiche on ony Tuisday he plasis betuix and the xxiiij day of *Junij* nixt on the samin text, viz., the xj chaptur of S. Mathowis evangell, beginning at the 27 vers thair of to the end, and that privallie in forme of exerceis.

Richard Fleming: The said Richard Fleming being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, bot for excuis of his absence thair was ane wreting producit subscriyvit be the said Richard, as appeirit, berand in effect that he doth nather ryd nor gang berassone of infirmitie and seiknes and that he may nocht resort to our presbytery becaus he is nocht ablle of body nor yit hes expensis to travell with, beseiking thairfor the brethrein to suffir him remane with the presbytery of Linlythquow quhair he was befoir, as at mair lynth is conteinit in the said wreting. Inrespect of the quhilk wretein, the brethrein acceptis the samin as for lauchfull excuse for his absence this day and continewis farther tryell of the trewth the thair of to Andro Foresteris presens, quha dwellis nixt to him.

Patrik Layng: The said Patrik Layng being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. Thairfor the brethrein ordanis the said Patrik to be summond of new to the effect foirsaid *litteratorie* undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

Cristane Jarvy, adultrix: The quhilk day Patrik Gillaspie, minister at S. Ninianis kirk, declairit to the brethrein that forsamekill as Cristane Jarvy, parrochinnar of the said kirk, was excommunicat for disobedience to the kirk conjonit with adultrie committit be

hir with Johnne Knox in the said parrochun, and now be hir bill gevin in to the particular sessione of the said kirk declairit hir self penitent for the saidis offencis and offrit hir self in the will of the kirk thairfoir and desyrit to be absolvit fra the said sentence and ressavit againe in the bosum of the kirk, and thairfor the said minister, in name of his particular sessione, desyrit the brethreinis jugementis quhat answer thay sould gif to the said bill. The brethrein ordanis the said minister and sessione to try the said Cristanis repentence gif it be fenzeit or nocht according to the ordur usit be the kirk in sic materis, quhilk repentence beand fund unfenzeit that the said minister absolve hir fra the said excommunicatioun, according to the ordur, and thaireftir to compell hir compeir befor the presbytery to ressave farther injunctionis to be injonit to hir for hir saidis offencis, according to the ordur.

Hendirson contra Forester: The quhilk day ane summondis beand product be Johnne Hendirson, yunger, dewlie execute and indorsit upone Hellein Forester, dochtir to umquhill George Forester in Schiphaught and Hellein Donaldsone, hir mother, chairgein thame to compeir the said day to heir and sie thame selffis decernit to be excommunicat for thair contemp and disobedience to the kirk, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis, compeirit the said Hellein Forester and Hellein Donaldsone, hir mother, quha being accusit for thair disobedience being twa severall tymis of befor lauchfullie summond and wald nocht compeir, thay answerit the occasione thairof was be ignorance and knew nocht that thai aucht to compeir befor ony assemblie bot the particular assemblie of thair awin parroche kirk. Nochttheles, thay offir thame selffis in the will of the kirk thairfoir. Inrespect quhairof, the brethrein continewis all farther proceidein for the said disobedience againis thame quhill thay be farther advysit. Farther, the said Hellein Forester and hir mother being examinat upone the caus quhairfor thay war first summond, to wit, quhy thay desyr nocht mariage to be solemnizit betuix the said Johnne Hendirson, yunger, baxter, and the said Hellein Forester, according to ane mutuall promeis made thairanent be thame with consent of thair parentis in presens of the reder of Sterling, it was ansorit be all the saidis personis that they confessit the samin promeis of mariage was made withe consent, as said is. And the said Hellein Donaldsone allegit the stay thairof was only

in hir that mycht nocht be lasarit nor could nocht gait thingis necisar for hir dochteris mariage nor banquet as yit. And the said Hellein and hir said dochter being desyrit to appoint ane uther day for completing of the samin with consent of the said Johnne as yit ansorit that presentlie thay was nocht resolvit thairwith and thairfor desyrit ane day to be assignit to thame that in the men tyme scho may advys quhat day thai will appoint. The brethrein assignis to thame to gif answer on the xvj day of May instant, baith the parteis warnit thairto *apud acta*.

Buikis off disceplein, etc., to be producit: The quhilck day it is ordeinit that ilk minister and reder, ministratouris of baptisme and mariage within the boundis of this presbytery, produce thair buikis of disceplein with the register of all mariagis thai solemnizat, bairnis that they bapteis, the almus collectit for the pure at thair kirk duris with the rollis of the distributione thair of and the namis of the personis that deis within the parrochun on the nixt Twysday eftir midsomer nixt befor the brethrein to be sein and considerit be thame and thaireftir to be redelyverit to the producear.

At Sterling the ix day of May, 1587

Presentes: James Andirson, Andro Forester, Mr Henrie Layng, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull, Mr Richard Wrycht, Mr Johnne Broun, Mr William Moresone and Patrik Layng, brethir of exerceis.

The making of the exerceis was neglectit this day in absence of Mr Arthur Fethie quha sould have made the same. And Andro Forester was present quha was appointit to ad in the secund plaice, reddie to keip the samin plaice gif the first plaice hade bein keipit.

Patrik Layng: The quhilck day ane summondis beand producit dewlie execute and indorsit upone Patrik Layng chairgeing him to compeir the said day to heir and se farther tryell tane of him concerning his habilitie to bruik offeice in the ministrie, as effeiris, according to the ordinance of the last synnodall assemblie of this province made thairanent undir the paine of excommunicatione, compeirit the said Patrik and offirit him self to tryell, quha, to that effect, is ordeinit to teiche in the publict exerceis and, in speciall, to teiche on the ordinar text of the exerceis in the secund plaice on the xxiiij day of May instant, and that he be present at the exerceis on the

xvj day of May instant quhair he may undirstand at quhat plaice the text beginnis quhairon he sould teiche on the said xxij day of May.

Richard Fleming: The quhilk day the moderatour, in name of the brethrein, declairit to Andro Forester, minister dwelland nixt to Richard Fleming, that at the command of the last synnodall assembleie he was summond to the second day of May instant to heir and sie farther tryell tane of him concerning his habilitie to continew in the ministrie, quha compeirit nocht the said day bot send ane wreting, testefeand grit inhabilitie in his persone thruch seiknes and laik of mony to be his expensis quhairfor he desyrit the brethrein to excuse him for his absence, and thairfor the said Andro Forester is requyrit to declair the trewthe concerning his saidis excusis gif thay be of trewthe or nocht. The said Andro ansorit that he knew perfytlie be sycht of his persone and uthirwayis the said excuse to be of trewthe, bayth in seiknes in his person and scairsnes of silvir to be his expensis. Inrespect of the quhilk, the brethrein continewis farther tryell of him quhill thai be farther advysit and that the said Richard be mair abill to travell.

At Sterling the xvj day of May, 1587

Presentes: James Andirsone, Andro Forester, Patrik Layng, ministeris; William Sterling, Mr Richard Wrycht, Mr Alexander Iull and Mr William Moresone, brethir of exerceis.

The quhilk day Andro Forester propheceithe, as he was ordeinit, and the second plaice vacand thruch the absence of Mr Arthur Fethie, quha sould have occupyit the samin, James Andirsone voluntarilie occupyithe the samin.

Hendirson contra Forester: In the terme assignit to Hellein Donaldsone and Hellein Forester, hir dochtir, in Schiphaucht to gif answer quhat peremptur day thai will appoint for compleiting of mariage betuix Johnne Hendirsone, yunger, baxter in Sterling, and the said Hellein Forester, compeirit the said Johnne Hendirsone and Johnne Hendirsone, his father, and the said Hellein Donaldsone and hir dochtir, being oft tymis callit, compeirit nocht. Thairfor the brethrein ordanis the saidis personis disobedient to be summond be thair summondis to compeir befor the particular sessione of the kirk of Sterling lyk as the saidis Johnne Hendirsonis, elder and

yunger, ar summond *apud acta* to compeir befor the samin sessione on the xvij day of this instant, and thair with ane consent to appoint ane peremptur day for completing of the said mariage with certificatioun, as effeiris, and to caus the samin promeis of mariage be lauchfullie proclamit in hir parroche kirk of S. Niniane, lyk as the samin is alreddy done in the said Johnnis parroche kirk of Sterling.

William Sterling: In the terme assignit be the brethrein to gif thair declaratur on thair jugementis gevin on the tryell alreddie tane of William Sterlingis doctrein, the said William comperand personallie, the brether findis be the actis made anent his formar tryell that his doctrein is sound aggreing with the annalagie of fayth bot nocht sufficient nather in expositione nor in edificatioun as is requisit to be ane pastour burdenit with the weghtie offeice of ane minister in the kirk of God. Nochttheles, for avoyding of all occasione of sudden proceidein with the said William, the brethir thinkis gude that, as yit, he be farther tryit in manir follwing, to wit, first, in forme of exerceis privallie, secundlie, in forme of publick doctrein with applicationis privallie, thridlie, to answer to questionis on the commone placis and grundis of religione, and last to be tryit in lyf and conversatioun according to the ordur, quhilk tryell being tane, the brethrein to pronounce thair jugementis thairon, as apperteinis. Farther, the said William Sterling being accusit for ministratioun of the sacrament of baptisme, sen he was dischairgit be the brethrein fra exercesein and usein of all farther functione in the kirk excep onlie to reid, and in speciall for baptezein of ane bairne gottin in fornicatioun be William Fargy on [*blank*] within the parrochun of S. Niniane, the kirk nocht beand satisfeit, and without testimoniall of the minister of the parrochun quhair the samin was borne, the said William confessit the ministratioun of the sacrament of baptisme to sindrie bairnis and in speciall the said William Fargyis bairne, bot allegis that the said William Fargy fand cautione to him of befor that he sould satisfie the kirk for his said fornicatioun. Nochttheles, he confessis in doing of the samin he hes offendit, for the quhilk he offiris him self in the will of the brethrein of this presbytery. The brethrein continewis thair jugementis in the saidis offensis quhill thai be farther advysit, and in the mentyme ordanis the said William Fargy to be summond *litteratorie* to compeir befor this presbytery to answer and undirly disceplein

for the said fornicatioun, and to answer farther, as he salbe requyrit, undir the paine of disobedience.

Waltir Buchannan: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit dewlie execute and indorsit upone Waltir Buchannan, brother to Johnne Buchannan of Arnepriour, chairgeing him to compeir the said day to heir and se him self decernit to be excommunicat as ane papeist, refusar to profes the religione, authoresit be the kingis majestie and his thre esteattis of this realm, aggreing with the Word of God, and to subscrivye the confession thairof, subscrivvit be his majestie and his houshould, and for disobedience to the kirk quha, being oft tymis callit, compeirit nocht. Nochttheles, the brethrein considering the weghtines of the sentence of excommunicatioun gif thai proceid this day, as justlie thay may, and inrespect of the absence of sum discreit brethrein, thay continew the pronuncein of thair decret off excommunicatioun to the penult day of July instant, and ordanis the said Waltir to be summond thairto in the samin forme and effect as he was summond to this day.

Concerning absens off rederis fra the synnodall: The brethrein undirstanding that forsamekill as be act of the last synnodall assembleie Robert Mentayth, yunger, reder at Alvayth, Symone Pattone, reder at Glendoven, Johnne Hammiltoun, reder at Bothkenner, and Alexander Cuthbert, reder at Falkirk, ar convict everie ane of thame in ane certane penalty for thair absence fra the said last synnodall assembleie and the moderatour of the presbytery ordeinit to caus uplift the samin and to be answerabill thairfoir to the nixt synnodall, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the ordinance made thairupone, thairfor the brethrein ordanis the saidis rederis to be summond *litteratorie* to produce and delyvir thair penalteis respective, quhilk thay and everie ane of thame ar decernit respective to pay be the said ordinance for thair absence fra the said assembleie, undir the paine of disobedience.

Absens of Patrik Layng fra the synnodall: The quhilk day Patrik Layng, beand requyrit to produce his penaltie quhairin he was convict be act of the last synnodall assembleie haldin at Sterling for his absence thairfra on the secund day thairof, ansorit that he mycht nocht tarie the said day for laik of expensis. Nochttheles, he refarris him self in the will of the nixt synnodall assembleie thairfoir, to the quhilk tyme the brethrein continewis the uplifting of his penaltie.

Thomas Potraill, adulterar and incestuus: Compeirit Thomas Potraill in Ester Greinyairdis within the parrochun of S. Niniane and confessis him self to have committit adultrie with Marione Stein, sister to Jonet Stein, presentlie his wyf, and is with bairne to him, for the quhilk he offeris him self in the will of the kirk. The brethrein findis that the said Thomas hes committit adultrie and incest with the said Marjorie and thairfor is ordeinit to compeir befor the nixt synnodall assemblee of this province to be hauldin in Sterling the first Twesday of October, thair to ressave injunctionis to be injonit to him for his said offence and to obey the samin undir the paine of disobedience.

At Sterling the xxijj day of May, 1587

Presentes: James Andirsone, Mr Arthur Fethie, Robert Mentayth, Alexander Fargy, Mr Henrie Layng, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull and Mr William Moresone, brethir of exerceis.

Tryell of Patrik Layng: Mr Richard Wrycht propheceithe on the x chaptur to the Hebrewis beginnand at the 19 vers thairof inclusive to the 24 vers of the samin exclusive, and Patrik Layng addithe thairto in the secund plaice, according as he was ordeinit for ane part of the tryell of his doctrein. The brethrein continewis thair jugementis on the said Patrikis doctrein quhill thay heir him teiche the vj day of *Junij* nixt in the first plaice on the ordinar text of the exerceis and thane to juge on baithe.

Mr Arthur Fethie: Mr Arthur Fethie, being accusit for his absence fra the exerceis thir mony dayis past and for neglecting of teiching in the secund plaice thairof as he was ordeinit, ansorit that he was nocht advertesit to keip the secund plaice nather of the tymis that he was absent nather personallie nor be word nor wret that he ressavit, bot confessit that he was in Angus sen he was last present doand sum necissar bissines, quhilk the brethrein tryit and admittit the samin for lauchfull excuse of his absence.

We, the brethrein of the presbytery of Sterling undirsubscrivand, undirstanding the travellis and painis susteinit be our brother James Duncansone in wrettein in our sessionis and assembleis and doing thairin the offeice of ane clark as appertenis sen *Witsonday in anno* etc., four scoir, sex yeiris without ony recompance or gratitude

provydit to him thairfoir as yit, for remade quhairof we, the said brethrein, with ane consent aggreis and voluntarlie promesis for the present necessitie to content to pay to him ten pundis mony of feall thairfoir yeirlie at twa termis in the yeir, Witsonday and Mertimes, be equall portionis ay and quhill we obtien to him ane better feall thairfoir uthirwayis, the first yeiris paymentt thairof to begin at the feast of Witsonday in this instant yeir of God im vc lxxxvij yeiris. Quhilk soume we, and everie ane of us respective, voluntarlie oblesis us to pay to the said James at the termis foirsaidis, during the said speace according as it is devydit and particularlie indorsit in ane uthir tickat subscryvit also with our handis respective. In witnes quhairof, we have subscryvit thir presentis with our handis in this our assemblie haldin at Sterling, day [and] yeir foirsaid. [*Blank space for signatures follows.*]

Cristane Jarvie, adultrix: Compeirit Cristane Jarvie in Carnok and confessis hir to have committit adultrie with Johnne Knox in Auchinbowie, mareit, for the quhilk (as scho confessis) scho compeirit befor the synnodall assemblie of this province and ressavit injunctionis injonit to hir for the samin, quhilk injunctionis scho wald nocht obey, and thairfoir was excommunicat fra the societie of the kirk, bot thruch the mercie of God scho hes repentit [of, *deleted*] hir disobedience and unfenzitlie confessit hir said offence of adultrie and hes offirit hir self in the will of the kirk thairfoir. In respect quhairof, and eftir dew tryell tane of hir said repentence be the particular sessione of hir parroche kirk of S. Niniane, thay be advys of this presbytery hes absolvit hir fra the sentence of excommunicatioun, at quhais command the said Cristane compeiris this day and offiris hir self reddie to obey quhat the brethrein of this assemblie will injone to hir. The brethrein, being advysit with the said Cristanis confessione, ordanis hir to mak publict repentence in hir said parroche kirk of S. Niniane ilk Sondag in hir awin clathis quhill the nixt synnodall assemblie to be hauldin in this brugh on the first Twysday of October nixt, on the quhilk day the said Cristane sall compeir in linning clathis and thair to ressave sic farther injunctionis as than salbe injonit to hir for hir said adultrie undir the paine of disobedience.

James Wilsone, fornicatur: The quhilk day Robert Mentayth, minister at Alvayth, declairit to the brethrein that forsamekill as

thair is ane man dwelland within his said parrochun callit James Wilsone, son to Andro Wilsone thair, quha hes fallin in the fourt fault of fornicatioun with thre soverall wemen, and thairfor inquiryt of the brethir quhat he sould do thairwith. The brethrein ordanis the said James Wilsone to be summond *litteratorie* to compeir befor thame to ressave injunctionis for the said offence undir the paine of disobedience.

At Sterling the penult day of May, 1587

Presentes: James Andirsone, Mr Arthur Fethie, Andro Forester, Robert Mentayth, Mr Alexander Wallace, Mr Adame Merschell, Mr Henrie Layng, Alexander Fargy, Patrik Layng, ministeris; William Sterling; Mr Alexander Iull, Mr William Moresone and Mr Richard Wrycht, brethir of exerceis.

The quhilk day Mr Arthur Fethie prophecethe and Mr Henrie Layng addithe thairto in the secund plaice as thay war ordeinit.

Rober[t] Mentayth, reder: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit dewlie execute and indorsit upone Robert Mentayth, yunger, reder at Alvayth, Symon Patone, reder at Glendoven, Johnne Hammiltone, reder at Bothkenner, and Alexander Cuthbert, reder at Falkirk, chairgeing thame to compeir the said day to produce and delyvir thair penalteis respective, quhilk thai and ilk ane of thame ar decernit to pay be the last synnodall assembleie for thair absence thairfra as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis, compeirit the said Robert Mentayth and allegit the caus of his absence fra the said assembleie was first inrespect of his fathiris presence thairat quha was minister of the said kirk quhilk he thocht sould have bein sufficient, secundlie, inrespect of non payment of his stepend and thairthrw wantit to sustein his expensis quhilk rassonis he remittit to be jugit on be the brethrein.

Symone Patoun: Compeirit Symone Patoun and allegit that his wyf was new delyvir of hir birthe the tyme of the last synnodall assembleie and was in grit dainger of hir lyf and thairfoir could nocht lave hir, quhilk was the caus of his absence thairfra.

Johnne Hammiltoun: Compeirit Johnne Hammiltoun and allegit that the tyme of the last synnodall assembleie his mother was dedlie

seik and thairfor remanit with hir to confort hir quhilk was the caus of his absence thairfra.

Alexander Cuthbert: Compeirit Alexander Cuthbert and allegis that he was seik the tyme of the last synnodall assemblie lyk as he was befoir and sensyne, quhilk was the caus of his absence thairfra.

Quhilkis excusis allegit be all the saidis personis, the brethrein tryit and fand thame of varetie and thairfoir admittit thame respective as rassonablle, and farther the brethrein having tryit thair diligence in thair officis respective and thair lyf and conversatione findis nathing in nane of thame reprovablle, and thairfor exhortis thame to continew in thair officis as becumis.

Thomas Wilsone, fornicatur: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit deulie execute and indorsit upone James Wilsone, sone to Andro Wilsone in Alvayth, chairgeing him to compeir the said day to ressave injunctionis to be injonit to him for fornicatioun committit with Chathrein Peresone thair, and that as for the fourt fault in his persone, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis, compeirit the said James Wilsone and grantis him to have committit fornicatione with Helleson Clark, secundlie with Jonet Edmane, relaps, and now the fourt tyme with the said Cathrein Peresone, for the quhilk he offiris him self in the will of the kirk. The brethrein ordanis the said James to mak publict repentence, in his awin parroche kirk four soverall Sondagis in tyme of sermond, bair fuittit in linning clathis for his said offence.

Waltir Buchannan: The quhilk day compeirit Waltir Buchannan, brother to Johnne Buchannan of Arnepriour, and grantit him self summond be William Sterling to compeir this day to the effect conteinit in the summondis, viz., to heir and sie him self decernit to be excommunicat as ane papeist, refusar to profes the religione authoresit be the kingis majestie and his thre esteattis of this realme, aggreing with the Word of God, and to subscribe the confessione thairof and for disobedience to the kirk, as at mair lynthe is conteinit thairin, quhairof he confessis him self to have ressavit ane copie delyverit to him be the said William and als ressavit the principall summondis for inspectione, quhilk he deteinit in his awin handis as yit. Eftir the quhilk confessione, the said Waltir was requyrit be the moderator to declair quhy he frequentit nocht sermondis and confirrence with sum of the brethrein of the ministrie

sen the xxiiij day of Januar last as he was thane ordeinit, ansorit that he frequentit his awin parroche kirk of Kippen sensyn to quhome the moderator declairit that the samin was na obedience to the said ordinance becaus thair was na minister in that kirk that hade powar to preiche bot simplie to reid allanirlie. Secundlie, being requyrit to renunce the papisticall error and to profes and subscribe our religione aggreing with the Word of God, the said Walter ansorit that he was nocht resolvit thairwith as yit concerning the trewth and rycht wirschipping of God and thairfor desyrit ane day as yit to be assignit to him to advys with his answer. The brethrein being myndfull to remove all occasione that he may have to allege sudden procedein againis him albeit he hes hade alreddy sufficient tyme to advys with his said answer, to witt, the speace of four moneth bypast, nochttheles the brether as yit assignis to him the xiiij day of *Junij* nixt tocum to gif his resoluit answer quhethir he will imbrais our religione or nocht. And that as for the last day that was in thair handis to appoint unto him, inrespect of the neir approching of the conventione of the generall assemblie in the quhilk the brethrein ar bund to declair and report thair diligence quhat thai have done concerning the said mater. Als the said Waltir Buchannan is ordeinit yit as of befor to frequent and keip the sermondis preichit be godlie ministeris and quhair he douttis to confer with sum of the discreit brethrein in thir boundis quhome he plasis thairby to declair apperancis that he meinis to have knowlege of the trewth and to embrais the samin. Attour, the said Waltir being inquiryrit gif his wyf was delyvir of hir birthe as yit or nocht, the said Waltir answerit and confessit that scho was delyvir of ane maidin bairn and allegit the samin was nocht as yit baptezit. And being desyrit gif he wald promeis to present the samin bairne to be baptezit according to the Word of God and ordur reformat in the kirk of Scotland and desyr the samin sacrament to his bairne, he wald mak na direct answer thairto bot promesit to gif answer thairto on the said xiiij day of *Junij* nixtocum, quhilk continewatioun was grantit be the brethrein siclyk.

Hendirone contra Forester: The quhilk day ane summondis beand productit deulie execute and indorsit upone Hellein Forester and Hellein Donaldsone, hir mother, chairgeing thame to compeir the said day to answer at the instance of Johnne Hendirsone, yunger,

making mentione that albeit the said Johnne Hendersone and Hellein Forester, with consent of thair parentis, in presens of the particular sessione of the kirk of Sterling and Mr Henrie Layng, minister at the said Helleinis parroche kirk, grantit mutuall promeis of mariage is made be thame ilk ane to utheris and appointit ane peremptur day for completing of the samin, nochttheles the said Hellein Donaldson, mother to the said Hellein Forester, sensyne hes past fra the said mariage and dischairgit the said Mr Henrie Layng of ony proclamatioun of the samin, and thairfor chairgeing thame as said is to underly disceplein for thair said inconstancie and to declair ane rassonablle caus thairfoir, as at mair lynth is conteinit in the said summondis, compeirit Johnne Hendersone, persewar, and the said Hellein Donaldsone personallie, quhilk Hellein, being desyrit to declair the caus of hir said inconstancie, could declair na rassonablle caus and thairfor inrespect the brethrein undirstude that the saidis Johnne Hendirsone and Hellein Forester was willing to compleit the said mariage lyk as the said Hellein Foresteris brother was siclyk myndit thairto, thairfor the brethrein ordanis the minister of S. Ninianis kirk to proceid in proclamatioun of the said promeis and to thair mariage gif na farther impediment be opponit againis the samin, nochtwithstanding of the said dischairge of hir mother.

At Sterling the vj day of Junij, 1587

Presentes: James Andirsone, Alexander Fargy, Andro Forester, Mr Henrie Layng, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull, Mr Richard Wrycht, Mr William Moresone and Patrik Layng, brethir of exerceis.

Tryell off Patrik Layng: The quhilk day being assignit to Patrik Layng to gif ane tryell of his doctrein be teichein on the ordinar text of the exerceis, compeirit the said Patrik and teichit on the said text in forme of exerceis as he was ordeinit, viz., on the 10 chaptur to the Hebrewis beginning at the 28 vers thairof inclusive to the 32 vers thairof exclusive publictlie. Quhais doctrein being hard and the brethreinis jugementis cravit thairon and on his doctrein in his additioun made in the secund plaice of exerceis the xxij day of May last, the samin doctrein was fund to be aggreabill

with the annalagie of fayth, inrespect quhairof the brethir admittis him to teiche in the publict exerceis.

Laird off Pantaskan, adulterar: The samin day compeirit Johnne Levingstone of Pantaskan and grantis him to have committit adultrie with Cristane Waen, for the quhilk he confessis him self to be penitent and repentis of the samin in signe and taikin quhairof he hes put away the said woman furth of his societie, for the quhilk offence he remittis him self in the brethreinis will. The brethrein, praisein God for the said confessione and exhortein him to continew in that esteat and to abstein fra the lyk in the said Cristanis persone and all uthir wemen besyd his awin wyf, thocht gude nocht to continew the geving of injunctionis to him for the said offence quhill the nixt synnodall assemblie of this province, for sindrie gude rassonis knawin to the brethrein. Thairfoir thay ordeinit him fra this furth to mak publict repentence in his awin clathis ilk Sondag in his awin parroche kirk that his minister is thair quhill the nixt synnodall assemblie of this province to be hauldin in the kirk of Sterling the first Twysday of October nixt, on the quhilk day he sall compeir thane and ressave sic injunctionis as the said assemblie sall injone to him undir the paine of disobedience, and that he nawayis ressave the said Cristiane Waen in societie with him againe frathisfurth.

Decreit betuix Hendirsone and Forester: The quhilk day compeirit Johnne Hendirsone, yunger, baxter in Sterling, and producit ane summondis dewlie execute and indorsit upone Hellein Forester, dochtir to umquhill George Forester in Schiphaucht, and Hellein Donaldsone, hir mother, makand mentione anent the promeis of mariage made betuix the said Johnne Hendirsone and Hellein Forester, with consent of thair parentis, eftir tryell being tane thairintill be the brethrein upone the penult day of May last bypast thay commandit the samin to be lauchfullie proclamit and mariage solemnizit betuix thame, as the said act beris at lynth, nochttheles sensyne bayth the saidis parteis hes with ane consent cancellat and distroyit the matremoniall contract made thairupone, as was allegit, and thairfor chairgit the said Hellein Forester and Hellein Donaldsone to compeir the said day to heir and sie the brethreinis declaratur pronuncit decerning the said Johnne frie to marie in the Lord, nochtwithstanding of the promeis fairsaid and the said Hellein

Donaldsone decernit for hir oft inconstancie to pay the penaltie conteinit in the said act of the general assemblie and the said Hellein and hir dochtir foirsaid to undirly disceplein for sclandering of the kirk thairby, with certificatioun and thai failze the brethrein will proceid and decern, as said is, according to Godis Word, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis. The saidis Hellein Forester and Hellein Donaldsone being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. Thairfor the brethrein being advysit with the haille proces deducit in the said mater findis the said Hellein Donaldsone to have bein varie inconstant concerning the said promeis oft and dyveris tymis sen the making thair of and ane grit stayer of hir dochtir in performing of the samin and lykwys findis hir said dochtir now at last inconstant siclyk for nocht abyding thairat, and thairfoir decernis the said Johnne Hendirsone fre to marie in the Lord nochtwithstanding of the said contract inrespect thair hes bein na carnall copulation betuix the said Hellein Forester and him, and for the said Hellein Donaldsonis oft inconstancie and diswading of hir said dochtir to compleit the said mariage according to hir said promeis, ordanis hir to mak publict repentence in the parroche kirk of Sterling upone ane Sonday quhen scho salbe warnit thairto be the officier of this presbytery, undir the pane of disobedience, for away taking of the sclandir of the said inconstancie done to the said kirk be proclamein of the said promeis thairin being the said Johnnis parroche kirk at the command of the said Hellein Forester, Hellein Donaldsone and the said Johnne Hendirsone and nocht compleiting of the mariage according thairto, and als decernis the said Hellein Donaldsone to pay x libis., mony to be applyit *ad pios usus* according to ane act of the generall assemblie made thairanent, and farther inhibittis and forbiddis thair minister of Sanct Ninianis kirk and all uthir ministeris and rederis that nane of thame minister ony benefeit of the kirk to the said Hellein Donaldsone nor hir dochtir ay and quhill thay satisfie our said decreit in all pointis alsweill the said penaltie as in repentence as thay and everie ane of thame will answer upone thair obedience to the kirk.

At Sterling the xij day of *Junij*, 1587

Presentes: James Andirsone, Robert Mentayth, Alexander Fargy,

Mr Henrie Layng, Mr Adame Mairschell, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull and Mr Richard Wrycht, brethir of exerceis.

The quhilk day Mr Alexander Iull propheceithe and Mr Richard Wrycht addithe thairto according as thay was ordeinit.

Waltir Buchannan: In the terme assignit to Waltir Buchannan, brother to Johnne Buchannan of Arnepriour, to gif his resoluit answer gif he will renunce the erruris of the papeistis and profes and subscriye our religione aggreing with the Word of God or nocht, compeirit the said Waltir personallie, quha being desyrit to satisfie the desyr of the terme, viz., to gif his resoluit answer to the premissis, seing he hes hade sufficient tyme to advys with the samin, the said Waltir ansorit that he could nocht embrais our religione presentlie, berassone the samin wald be the tinsall of his wyffis heritage and leving, quhilk scho hade in Flandiris, and thairfor, yit as of befoir, desyrit continewatione quhill he tuke ordur thairwith. The moderator ansorit that the brethrein wald nocht continew him farther in that respect becaus the samin rassone being alreddie allegit be him was repellit be the brethrein. Attour, he being requyrit be the moderatour quhy he frequentit nocht sermondis and confirrence of brethrein sen the penult of May last, as he was thane ordeinit, ansorit that thais pairttis of Kippen quhair he dwellis is undir sic feir of brokin heland men that he could nocht have his awin dwelling for sudden persute be thame in the cuntrie. Mairattour, the moderator desyrit the said Waltir to remembir the grit lavitie that hes bein usit towardis him in granting unto him varie large tyme to advys with his answer and as yit can gait na direct answer nor na kynd of apperance that he meinis to be instructit in the rycht worschepping of God according to his Word berassone he hes nevir bein sein at ane preichein sen he last returnit in the cuntrie nather yit wald he evir desyr ony confirrence of brethrein to resolve him of douttis gif he ony hade, and thairfor his suttein of langer continewatioun apperis to the brethrein to be rather to drift tyme nor uthirwayis, nochttheles as yit gif he will promeis and thairupone find cautione undir the paine conteinit in the act of parliament made anent sic materis that within the speace of fourtie dayis nixt heirefter he sall athir embrace our religione and subscriye the confessione of fayth or ellis he and his wyf within the samin speace to depairte af the cuntrie according to the

lawis of the realme quhairby the sclandir in his persone and wyfis may be tane away, and gif he was nocht resolvit presentlie quhethir he wald do the samin or nocht, the moderatour desyrit him to promeis to compeir befor the nixt generall assembleie to be haldin in Edinburgh the xx day of this instant moneth and thair to promeis the samin or ellis to satisfie thame uthirways. The said Waltir ansorit that he culd nocht mak the said promeis presentlie nather yit wald he compeir befor the said generall assembleie to the effect foirsaid, nathir wald he appoint na peremptur day quhowsonsone he wald do ane of thame becaus as yit he was nocht resolvit thairwith in conscience, bot promeis to keip his parroche kirk on the Sabbath day in tyme of serveice and quhen he cumis to the toun of Sterling he sall resort to the sermondis and confer with sum of the ministrie, and in the mentyme sall nocht be sclanderus in word nor behaviour, quhilk being provin, he is content and consentis presentlie to be excommunicat without ony farther proces. Attour, the said Waltir being requyrit gif he wald desyr his maidin bairne, quhair of his wyf is lichter, to be baptezit according to the ordur approvit be the reformat kirk of Scotland and to declair the tyme quhen he will desyr the samin according to his promeis made on the penult day of May last bypast, the said Waltir ansorit that he was nocht yit resolvit quhowsonsone he wald desyr his said bairne to be baptezit, nather yit wald he promeis directlie to desyr the said sacrament to his said bairne according to the said ordur. And swa (as appeirit) the said Waltir schew litill or na apperance that he is myndit to embrace our religione aggreing with the Word of God, nochttheles the brethrein continewis the pronuncein of thair jugementis on the said answeris quhill thay be advysit with the nixt generall assembleie of the kirk.

Commissionaris to the nixt generall assembleie: The samin day the brethrein hes electit and nominat Mr Arthur Fethie and Andro Forester, ministeris, to pas with James Andirsone, minister, commissionar within the boundis of this province, as commissionaris for this presbytery to the nixt generall assembleie of the kirk to be hauldin in Edinburgh the xx day of this instant moneth of *Junij* to concur with the said assembleie for traittein of thais thingis concerning the weill and gude ordur to be observit within the kirkis of the said presbytery and haill kirk within this realme that

may tend to the glorie of God and promotiōne of his Word within the samin.

Presentatioun of littis furth of the quhilk ane minister to be admittit to S. Ninianis kirk: The quhilk day compeirit Alexander Saittōne of Gargunnok and Duncan Narne of Lokishill, twa of the commissiōnaris conteinit in the supplicatiōne undir specefeit, and in the name of the parrochinnaris of S. Ninianis kirk producit ane supplicatiōne berand in effect that be the deathe of umquhill Patrik Gillaspie, thair minister, thair kirk was presentlie destitut of ane pastur. Thairfoir thai thocht gude to nominat and present to the brethrein the personis follwing, viz., Maister Henrie Layng, Mr Robert Cornwell, Mr Henrie Levingstone, quhome thay desyr the brethrein to try and examin alsweill in literatur as in thair lyvis and conversatiōne and thaireftir thay that is fundin maist apt to be minister in the said kirk to be presentit to the particular assemblie of the said parroche kirk, thair to be voittit be thame quhome thai sould think maist meit to the said offeice, and thaireftir that persone to be admittit pastour to the said kirk according to the ordur, as the samin supplicatiōne subscriyvit be sindrie of the saidis parrochinnaris in the self at mair lynthe beris. With the quhilk, the brethrein being advysit thocht gude and ordeinit the saidis Maisteris Henrie Levingstone and Henrie Layng to be tryit according to the desyr of the said supplicatiōne becaus thai war bayth personallie present lyk as also offirit to try the said Mr Robert Cornwall siclyk, quhow-sone he wald compeir and offir him self thairto, and thairfor appointis Mr Henrie Layng to mak the exerceis the next day on the ordinar text thairof, viz., on the 10 chaptur of the epistill wrettin to the Hebrewis beginning at the [blank] vers thairof, and Mr Henrie Livingstone to ad thairto in the secund plaice.

Atour, the brethrein undirstandein that the next day of exerceis is nocht to be for the speace of fyftein or xx dayis to cum, inrespect of the generall assemblie that conveinis the xx day of this instant moneth, viz., on the ordinar day of exerceis in this brugh, and becaus nane of the brethrein of this presbytery hes hard the said Mr Henrie Levingstone teiche in publict exerceis at ony tyme heirtofoir, thairfor thinkis gude at his awin desyr that he teiche first privallie on the xvij day of *Junij* instant eftir none in presens of swa mony of the brethrein as may be present the samin tyme on

the beginning of the fyft chaptur of the epistill wrettin to the Romanis and that in forme of exerceis.

Tryell of Mr Adame Mairschell: The quhilk day being appointit to Mr Adame Mairschell to gif ane tryell privallie in forme of exerceis on the text gevin to him on the first day of November last bypast, the said Mr Adame compeirit and in presens of the brethrein fairsaid teichit on the said text privallie, viz., on the xj chaptur of S. Mathowis evangell beginning at the 27 vers thair of inclusive unto the end of the chaptur. Quhais doctrein being hard, and the brethreinis jugementis thairon cravit, thay find that he hes nocht satisfieit thame thairin in sic sort that he hes atteinit to the mening of the Spirit of God on this text as becumis, and thairfor thinkis him nocht meit to be admittit to the secund point of tryell, viz., to exerceis publictlie. Nochttheles, in respect of absence of sum discreit brethrein and that thair voittis be nocht prejугit, it is thocht gude as yit and the brethrein hes appointit him to teiche privallie on the 3 chaptur of Johnnis evangell beginning at the 16 vers thair of at thir wordis: for God so lovithe the warld, etc., to be teichit in forme of exerceis, and to prepar him self to teiche the samin on sic day as he salbe warnit thairto eftir the desolving of the generall assemblie of the kirk.

At Sterling the xvij day of *Junij*, 1587

[*Presentes*]: James Andirson, Mr Duncane Andirson, and Mr Henrie Layng, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull and Maister Richard Wrycht, brethir of exerceis.

Tryell of Mr Henrie Levingstone: The quhilk day, being appointit to Mr Henrie Levingstone to gif ane tryell prevallie in forme of exerceis on the text appointit to him, compeirit the said Mr Henrie, quha in presens of the brethrein fairsaid teichit on the said text, viz., on the beginning of the fyft chaptur of the epistill wrettin to the Romanis to the 2 vers thair of exclusive, quhais doctrein being hard and the brethreinis jugementis thairon cravit, the samin was jugit to be sound doctrein aggreing weill with the purpos and mynd of the apostill in the said plaice and thairfor the brethrein admittis him to teiche in the publict exerceis according as he was appointit in the last sessione.

Upone the xx and xxvij dayis of *Junij* the brethrein was absent fra the exerceis inrespect of the generall assemblie.

At Sterling the iiij day of July, 1587

Presentes: James Andirson, Johnne Duncansone, Mr Arthur Fethie, Alexander Fargy, Robert Mentayth, Mr Alexander Wallace, Mr [Henrie] Layng, ministeris; and Mr Alexander Iull, ane brother of exerceis.

Tryell of Maisteris Henrie Layng and Henrie Levingstone: The quhilk day being appointit to Mr Henrie Layng to mak the exerceis and Mr Henrie Levingstone to ad in the secund plaice upone the ordinar text, viz., on the 10 chaptur of the epistill wrettin to the Hebrewis, beginning at the [*blank*] vers thair of, and that for tryell of thair habilitie quha is maist able to be admittit minister at S. Ninianis kirk, compeirit bayth the saidis personis and teichit as thay war ordeinit on the said text, quhais doctrein being hard and the brethreinis jugement thairon cravit, the samin was fund sound and profitablie, and thairfor the brethrein praisis God. Yit for farther tryell of the said Mr Henrie Levingstone, the brethrein ordanis him to teiche publictly in forme of exerceis on the nixt text follwing the said text teichit this day, and Mr Alexander Wallace to ad to him in the secund plaice on the nixt Twysday eftir the returning of the commissionaris frome the parliament.

At Sterling the viij day of August, 1587

Presentes: James Andirson, Johnne Duncansone, Mr Henrie Layng, Mr William Cwper and Mr Alexander Wallace, ministeris; and Mr Alexander Iull, ane brother of exerceis.

Tryell of Mr Henrie Levingstone: The quhilk day being appointit to Mr Henrie Levingstone to mak the exerceis on the ordinar text thair of as for ane part of his tryell to knaw gif he be qualefeit to be admittit ane minister of the evangell to S. Ninianis kirk or nocht and appointit siclyk to Mr Alexander Wallace to ad in the secund plaice conforme to the ordur, bayth the saidis personis compeirit and teichit as thay war ordeinit on the said text, viz., on the beginning of the 11 chaptur to the Hebrewis to the 4 vers thair of

exclusive, quhais doctrein being hard and the brethreinis jugementis thairon cravit, the samin was fund sound and proffitablle, bot thair jugementis being cravit on the said Maister Henreis doctrein onlie in speciall, seing the samin is ane point of his tryell and gif thay ar satisfeit with him concerning this point, viz., his teichein in forme of exerceis, inrespect this is the thrid tyme he hes teichit in that forme, first privallie, secundlie in adding in the secund plaice in the exerceis and, thridlie, this tyme, the brethrein jugis the said Mr Henreis doctrein this day to be sound and proffitablle according to the purpois of the apostill and mening of the said text. Inrespect quhairof and of his doctrein hard of befor, thay content thair selffis presentlie with the tryell tane concerning his teichein in form of exerceis and thinkis gude to proceid in the secund point of tryell with him, viz., to knaw his forme of publict doctrein with applicationis, and thairfor ordanis him to teiche publictlie in the kirk of Sterling in presens of the congregatioun thairon on the xvij day of August instant on the iij chaptur of S. Johnis evangell at the beginning thairon in the forme foirsaid.

Mr Henry Layng: The samin day the moderator declairit to the brethrein that forsamekill as the parrochinnaris of S. Ninianis kirk in ane supplicatioun gevin in be thame hes desyrit the brethrein to try the qualificatioun of Mr Henrie Layng gevin up in lit be thame with utheris conteinit in the said supplicatioun quhairof thay may have ane minister admittit to thame, and seing that the said Mr Henrie Layng gaif ane tryell to the brethrein befor he was admittit coadjutor with umquhill Patrik Gillaspie, last minister at the said kirk lyk as he hes bein hard sindrie tymis sensyne, thairfor it is askit of the brethrein gif thay will content thame selffis with the tryell alreddie tane of the said Mr Henrie or gif thay will tak tryell of him of new. The brethrein with ane consent contenttis thame selffis presentlie with the tryell alreddie tane of the said Mr Henrie Layng quhill thay have tryit the remanent presentit or to be presentit be the saidis parrochinnaris and continewis thair jugementis concerning his habilitie to be onlie minister in the said kirk till have thay have [*sic*] tane full tryell, as said is.

William Sterling: The brethrein undirstandein that albeit thay have ordeinit William Sterling to be tryit of new according to the ordinance of the last synnodall assemblie quhairbe thay may

undirstand gif he be worthie to continew a minister in the kirk or nocht, nochttheless as yit thair is na particular text appointit to him, thairfor the brethrein ordanis the said William to be summond to the xv day of this instant moneth to heir and sie farther tryell tane concerning his habilitie to continew and beir offeice in the ministrie undir the paine of disobedience.

At Sterling the xv day of August, 1587

Presentes: James Andirson, Mr Arthur Fethie, Andro Forester, Alexander Fargy, Mr William Cwper, Mr Henrie Layng, Robert Mentayth, Mr Alexander Wallace, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull and Mr Richard Wrycht, brethir of exerceis.

The quhilk day James Andirson propheceithe and Mr William Cwper addithe in the secund plaice as thay war ordeinit.

Fargy, fornicatur: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit dewlie execute and indorsit upone William Fargy chairgeing him to compeir the said day to heir and se him self decernit to have committit fornicatione with [blank] in S. Ninianis parrochun and to undirly disceplein thairfoir, as effeiris, and to answer farther thairanent as he salbe requyrit undir the paine of disobedience, quhilk William being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, thairfor the brethrein ordanis the said William to be summond of new to the effect foirsaid undir the paine of excommunicatione.

William Sterling: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit, dewlie execute and indorsit upone William Sterling chairgeing him to compeir the said day to heir and sie farther tryell tane of him concerning his habilitie to continew and beir offeice in the ministrie, compeirit the said William, quha being requyrit to declair the trewthe gif he ministrat the sacrament of the Lordis Supper to the parrochinnaris of Kippen at peace last or thairby or nocht, the said William confessit the samin, and thairfor the moderatour in name of the brethrein declairit to him that he hade gritlie offendit in melling with sa wegthie ane actione, he being nocht onlie suspendit fra ministratioun of the sacramentis bot also fra all offeice in the kirk excep onlie redein contenuallie sen the moneth of September last bypast, as ane act made thairupone beris. Lykas also he confessit of befoir that sen his said suspentione he

nocht onlie ministrat the sacrament of baptism to bairnis lauchfullie gottin, bot also to William Fargeis bairne gottin in fornicatione, the kirk nocht beand satisfieit thairfoir, and that besyd mony uthir his offencis conteinit in the actis of this presbytery, for the quhilk it is declairit unto him that he deservis *simpliciter* deprivatione fra all offeice in the kirk. Nochttheles, the brethrein continewis thair jugementis pronuncein quhill thay be farther advysit concerning the saidis offencis and presentlie for farther tryell of his habilitie ordanis him to teiche privallie in forme of exerceis on the xvij chapturn of S. Mathowis evangell beginning at the 7 vers thair of and to tak swa meikill thair of as he plasis and that on the xxij day of August instant, and presentlie of new suspendis him that as of befor fra all offeice in the kirk excep onlie simpill reidein, proclaiming of bandis of mariagis and solemnizatione of mariagis, according to the ordur allanirlie, withe certificatione and he mell with ony farther ather in teichein, exhortein, ministratioun of the sacramentis or ather of thame, he salbe deprivit *ipso facto* without ony farther proces, and this suspensioun to continew ay and quhill the brethrein be tryell find him meit and able to continew a minister in the kirk and thairfor admit thairto *de novo*.

At Striviling the xvij day of August, 1587, beand ane ordinar preichein day in the kirk of Sterlin

Presentes: James Andirson, Johnne Duncanson, Alexander Fargy, Mr William Cwper, Mr Andro Yung and Mr Andro Yung [*sic*], assessur, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull, Mr Richard Wrycht and Mr Johnne Millar, brethir of exerceis.

Tryell off Mr Henrie Levingstone: The quhilk day being appointit to Mr Henrie Levingstone to teiche publictly in the pulpet of Sterlin on the iij chapturn of S. Johnis evangell in forme of publict doctrein with applicationis and that for tryell of him in the second point appointit for examinatioun of personis presentit to the ministrie, the said Mr Henrie having teichit thairon to the 6 vers of the samin exclusive and the brethreinis jugementis thairon cravit, the samin was fund sound doctrein and proffitabill, aggreging weill with the text and the forme prescryvit to him. Nochttheles for farther tryell of him in the samin point, the brethrein ordanis him

to teiche publictlie in the kirk of Sterling on the xxiiij day of this instant moneth on the iij chaptur of S. Johnis evangell foirsaid beginning at the 14 vers of the samin in the forme foirsaid with applicationis.

At Sterling the xxij day of August, 1587

Presentes: James Andirsone, Johnne Duncansone, Mr William Cwper, Mr Alexander Wallace and Robert Mentayth, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull and Mr Richard Wrycht, brethir of exerceis.

The quhilk day Mr William Cwper propheceithe, as he was ordeinit, and Johnne Duncansone at the desyr of Alexander Fargy and in his plaice addithe thairto. Quhilk Alexander send excuse for his absense this day, quhilk was admittit.

William Sterling: The quhilk day being assignit to William Sterling to teiche privallie on the xviiij chaptur of S. Mathowis evangell beginning at the 7 vers thair of in forme of exerceis, thair was productit ane misseive wretein send be the said William berand ane excuse of his noncomperance to teiche as he was ordeinit. Quhilk excuse was admittit be the brethrein for this day and ordanis him to prepar him self to teiche on the said text in manir foirsaid on ony Twysday he plasis betuix and the fyft day of September nixt. Off the quhilk ordinance, the clark is ordeinit to mak him advertesit.

Mr William Cowper ordeinit to be placit: The quhilk day compeirit William Mure in Bathkenner and declairit that the brethrein of the last generall assemblie hade admittit Mr William Cowper ane minister of the Word of God and sacramentis, quhome thay hade appointit to be thair ordinar pastour, and thairfor the said William for him self and in name of the remanent parrochinnaris desyrit the brethrein to appoint ane brother to plaice the said Mr William Cowper pastour to thair said kirk, according to the ordur. Quhilk desyr was thocht rassonable, and thairfoir ordeinit James Andirsone, minister at Sterling, commissioner, to pas to the said kirk ony Sondag he thocht meit, thair to notifie to the parrochinnaris thair of his said admisione and to desyr thame to signifie thair consent, as effeiris, to the said Mr William. Lyk as the said Mr William sall declair him self willing to accept the samin burdein on him. Quhilk

being declairit affirmative that the samin plaice him ordinar pastor thairat, acceptand promeis of the parrochinnaris that thai sall obey thair said pastour according to Godis Word swalang as he continewis faythfull in his offeice and that the said Mr William promeis solemlie that he salbe ane trew and faythfull pastour to that flock, according to his calling swafar as it sall plais God to assist him with his Holie Spirit.

Potraill, Stein, adulteraris: The samin day compeirit Thomas Potraill in Ester Greinyairdis within the parrochun of S. Niniane and confessis that Marione Stein is lichter of ane bairne gottin be him in incest and adultrie, as his confessione thairof made of befoir at lynthe beris, and desyrit ane command to the minister of his parroche kirk to bapteis the said bairne and he sould obey the kirk as he salbe commandit. The brethrein ordanis the said Thomas to caus cautione be actit in the commissaris buikis of Sterling that the said Thomas and Marione Stein sall compeir befoir the nixt synnodall assembleie of this province to be hauldin in the kirk of Sterling the first Twysday of October nixt, thair to ressave injunctionis to be injonit to thame for adultrie and incest committit be thame and to obey the samin injunctionis, ilk person undir the paine of fourtie pundis mony, quhilke being done, the brethrein ordanis the said bairne to be baptesit.

William Kay and Elizabeth Galbrayth, adulteraris: The quhilke day ane summondis beand productit dewlie execute and indorsit upone William Kay in Arncumrie, within the parrochun of Kippen, and Elizabeth Galbrayth, spous to Donald Neilsone in Campsie, chairgeing thame to compeir the said day to heir and sie thame selffis decernit to have committit adultrie togethir and to underly disceplein thairfoir undir the paine of disobedience, quhilkis personis being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, thairfor the brethrein ordanis the saidis personis to be summond *de novo* to the effect fairsaid undir the paine of excommunicatione.

Anent chusein of ane minister to S. Ninians kirk: The quhilke day the brethrein undirstanding that forsamekill as according to the desyr of ane supplicatione presentit to thame in name of the parrochin-naris of S. Ninians kirk thay ar enterit in tryell of certan personis gevin up thairin in lit as also will try ony uthir personis that the saidis parrochinnaris sall nominat and present and thaireftir sall

judge as apperteinis, nochttheles befor the brethreinis declaratur thairin (as thai ar informit) thair is ane particular assemblie of sum of the elderis and deacunis and utheris of the said parrochun to be hauldin at the said kirk on the xxv day of this instant moneth of August to elect and admit ane minister to the said kirk, quhilk is plaine repugnant to Godis Word and gude ordur, gif swa be, seing the admisione of all ministeris is onlie in the handis of the presbyteriis and utheris assembleis of ministeris. Thairfor the brethrein ordanis thair clark to direct inhibitione inhibitand and dischaargeand Mr Henrie Layng and utheris to be convenit in the said assemblie that thai unawayis proceed to the electione nor admisione of ony man to be minister in the said kirk the said day nor at na tyme frathynefurth quhill the brethrein pronounce thair jugementis concerning the habilitie and qualificatioun of the personis alreddie presentit or to be presentit to us to the effect fairsaid, with certificatioun gif thay do in the contrar the brethrein will decern thair procedeinis null and of na avail, certefeand thame also that thay sall admit na minister to the said kirk quhill the parrochinnaris be first hard in geving thair consentis, according to the ordur.

At Sterling the xxiiij day of August, 1587

Presentes: James Andirson, Johnne Duncansone, Robert Mentayth, Mr Andro Yung, Mr Alexander Wallace, Mr Andro Murdo, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull and Mr Richard Wrycht, brethir of exerceis.

Mr Henrie Levingstone: The quhilk day being appointit to Mr Henrie Levingstone to teiche publictlie in the pulpet of Sterling on the iij chaptur of S. Johnis evangell in forme of publict doctrein with applicationis, on the quhilk chaptur the said Mr Henrie having teichit beginning at the 14 vers thair of to the 16 vers of the samin exclusive and the brethreinis jugement thairon cravit, the samin was fund sound doctrein and proffitabill aggreing weill with the mynd of the Spirit of God in that plaice and to the forme of teichein prescryvit to him. Inrespect quhair of and of the doctrein teichit be him of befor in the samin forme on the xvij day of this instant moneth, the brethrein contentis thame self with this point of tryell and ar satisfeit with the said Mr Henrie concerning the samin, and

seing he is ane in lit cravit be the parrochinnaris of S. Ninianis kirk to be minister to thame, the brethrein thinkis gude and hes ordeinit the said Mr Henrie to teiche in the said kirk on Sunday the iij day off September nixt to the effect thay may heir him teiche, lyk as thay have hard Mr Henrie Layng ane uthir in lit cravit to the effect foirsaid sindrie tymis of befoir, and that the elderis and deacunis and utheris discreit personis of the said parrochun be requyrit to convey thame selffis in ane assemblie immediatlie eftir the sermond to advys quhow thai find thame selffis edefeit with the said Mr Henreis [*sic*] Levingstonis doctrein, and to caus report thair judgement thairfor to our assemblie to be hauldin in the kirk of Sterling the fyft day of September nixt that we may be resolvit thairfor befoir the pronouncein of our declaratur, and als ordanis Mr Henrie Layng on Sunday nixt to mak intimatioun to the saidis parrochinnaris that the said Mr Henrie Levingstone is ordeinit to teiche to thame on Sunday nixt thaireftir the iij day of September nixt to the effect foirsaid.

At Sterling the xxix day of August, 1587

Presentes: James Andirson, Alexander Fargy, Robert Mentayth, Mr Alexander Wallace, Mr William Cowper, Mr Henrie Layng, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull, Mr Richard Wrycht, brethir of exerceis.

The quhilk day Alexander Fargy propheceithe and Robert Mentayth addithe thairto as thay war ordeinit.

Adulteraris, William Kay, Elezabeth Galbrayth: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit dewlie execute and indorsit upone William Kay in Arncumrie and Elezabeth Galbrayth, spous to Donald Neilson in Campsie, chairgeing thame to compeir the said day to heir and sie thame selffis decernit to have committit adultrie and to undirly disceplein thairfor undir the paine of excommunicatioun, compeirit the said William and grantis carnal deill with the said Elezabeth, quhais husband he grantis to be alyve, and as concerning the said Elezabeth it was testefeit that presentlie scho was seik and thairfor the brethrein continewis thair answer to the said William quhill he and the said Elizabeth be summond *de novo*.

William Fargy, fornicatur: The quhilk day ane summondis beand

productit dewlie execute and indorsit upone William Fargy chairging him to compeir the said day to heir and sie him self decernit to have committit fornicatioun with Agnes Stein in S. Ninianis parrochun and to underly disceplein thairfoir as effeiris and to answer farther thairanent, as he salbe requyrit undir the paine of excommunicatioun, quhilk William being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, thairfor the brethrein ordanis him to be summond to heir and sie him self decernit to be excommunicat for his contemp and disobedience to the voice of the kirk conjonit with the said offence of fornicatioun with certificatioun and he compeir nocht the brethrein will decern, as said is, according to the Word of God and disceplein of the kirk havand the warrand thairof thairin.

At Sterling the fyft day of September, 1587

Presentes: James Andirson, Andro Forester, Alexander Fargy, Robert Mentayth, Mr Henrie Layng, Mr Duncane Andirson, ministeris; and Mr Richard Wrycht, brother of exerceis.

Robert Mentayth propheceithe, as he was ordeinit, and Mr Henrie Layng addithe in plaice of Mr Alexander Wallace quha excusit his absence in the last session, quhilk was admittit.

William Fargy, fornicatur: The quhilk day compeirit William Fargy and grantis that he committit fornicatione with twa sindrie wemen, first, with Elezabeth Wys in Sterling, secundlie, with Agnes Stein in Carsie, and being requyrit quha baptezit the bairne gottin on the said Elezabeth Wys, he ansorit that the samin was ded borne. As concerning the secund bairne, he confessis that William Sterling baptezit the samin, beand presentit to him be Andro Ure in name of the said William Fargy, quhilk was done be his solistein and fand cautione that he sould satisfie the kirk for the samin. The brethrein ordanis the said William to satisfie the act of parliament made anent fornicatioun and to mak publick repentence in the parroche kirk of Sterling the nixt Sunday for his said first fault of fornicatioun committit in Sterling and to mak publick repentence in S. Ninianis kirk the nixt twa Sundayis thaireftir for his secund offence of fornicatione committit in the parroschun thairof.

Mr Henrie Levingstone: The samin day compeirit Duncane Narne

of Lokishill, as commissioner for the particular sessione of the parroche kirk of S. Niniane, and producit thair answer concerning the doctrein teichit be Mr Henrie Levingstone in thair kirk on Sondag last, berand in effect that the haill elderis and deacunis thane present, being requyrit quhat frute and edificatione thay hade ressavit be his doctrein, answerit all in ane voice that thay war gretumlie edefeit thairby and praisit God for the gude apperance thay fand in that mane, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the samin. With the quhilk the brethrein being advysit efter tryell tane of the parrochinnaris present the said day, it was fund that thair was bot ane few numbir of thais that dwellis bewast the said kirk present and thairfor the brethrein hes ordeinit the said Mr Henrie Levingstone to teiche in the said kirk, yit as of befoir, on Sondag the xvij day of September instant and that the elderis, deacunis and utheris discreit personis of the said parrochun be requyrit to convein in ane assemblie immediatlie eftir the sermond to advys quhow thay find thame selffis edefeit with his doctrein and to caus report thair jugementis thairof to our assemblie to be hauldin in the kirk of Sterling the xix day of September instant that the brethrein may be resolvit thairof befoir the pronuncein of thair declaratur, and als ordanis Mr Henrie Layng to teiche in the said kirk on Sondag nixt and to mak intimatione to the saidis parrochinnaris that the said Mr Henrie Levingstone is ordeinit to teiche to thame on Sondag nixt thaireftir to the effect fairsaid.

Mr Hew Myllis: The quhilk day compeirit Mr Hew Myllis, servand presentlie to the Lady Burlie, quha declairis that [he] is varie willein to entir in the ministrie and thairfor ernistlie desyris the brethir to tak ane tryell of him concerning his habilitie thairto. The brethrein, praisein God for his godlie and lauchfull desyr, appointis him to teiche on the 4 chaptur of the 1 epistill to Timothie beginning at the 12 vers thairof to the end of the chaptur privallie in forme of exerceis upone the xix day of this instant moneth of September.

Sessio 2a

Tryell of William Sterling: The samin day William Sterling teichit privallie on the xvij chaptur of S. Mathowis evangell, beginning at the 7 vers thairof to the 12 vers of the samin exclusive, quhais doctrein being hard and the brethreinis jugement thairon

cravit, the said William was fund nawayis to have opnit up the said text according to the mening of the Spirit of God thairin. Inrespect quhairof, he is jugit to be ignorant of the scripturis, nocht instructit thairin him self meikilles abill to instruct utheris. Nocht-theles, the brethrein continewis the pronuncein of thair jugementis concerning his habilitie to continew in the ministrie to the xxvj day of September instant, on the quhilk day it is thocht gude that ane uther text be appointit to him to teiche in presens of the nixt synnodall assembleie privallie in forme of publict doctrein with applicatiounis, and that for his farther tryell, to the quhilk day he is warnit *apud acta*.

At Sterling the xij day of September, 1587

Presentes: James Andirson, Johnne Duncansone, Mr Arthur Fethie, Andro Forester, Mr William Cowper, Mr Adame Merschall, Alexander Fargy, Mr Henrie Layng, ministeris; and Mr Alexander Iull, ane brother of exerceis.

Mr Henrie Layng propheceithe in the placie and at the desyr of Mr Alexander Wallace and Andro Forester addithe in the secund plaice as he was ordeinit.

Adulteraris, Harvie and Yung in Bothkenner: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit dewlie execute and indorsit upone William Harvie and Marione Yung in the parroschun of Bothkenner, allegit adulteraris, chairgeing thame to compeir the said day to heir and sie thame selffis decernit to have committit adultrie togethir, to undirly disceplein thairfoir, and to separat thame selffis undir the paine of disobedience, quhilkis personis being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, thairfor the brethrein ordanis thame to be summond *de novo* to the effect foirsaid undir the paine of excommunicatione.

Sessio 2a

Mr Adame Mairschell: The quhilk day Mr Adame Mairschell having teichit privallie on the 3 chaptur of S. Johnis evangell beginning at the 16 vers thairfoir to the 18 vers of the samin exclusive, quhais doctrein being hard and the brethreinis jugement thairon cravit, thay juget the said text to be nawayis opnit up according to the mening of the Spirit of God thairin and the said

Mr Adame thocht to be ignorant of the scripturis and nocht abill to instruct utheris thairin. Nochttheles the brethrein continewis the pronuncein of thair jugement concerning his habilitie to continew in the ministrie to the xxvj day of September instant on the quhilk day, it is thocht gude that ane uthir text be appointit unto him to teiche in presens of the nixt synnodall assemblie privallie in forme of publict doctrein with applicatiounis and that for his farther tryell to the quhilk day he is warnit *apud acta*.

At Sterling the xix day of September, 1587

Presentes: James Andirson, Mr Arthur Fethie, Robert Mentayth, Alexander Fargy, Mr Henrie Layng, Mr William Cowper, Mr Duncane Andirson, ministeris; Mr Richard Wrycht, ane brother of exerceis.

The quhilk day Andro Forester, minister at Falkirk, sould have propheceithe and Mr Alexander Wallace sould have occupyit the secund plaice, as thay war ordeinit of befoir, quha bayth neglectit the samin. Nochttheles laist the making of the exerceis sould have fallit this day, Mr Henrie Layng propheceithe and James Andirson occupyithe the secund plaice.

Andro Forester, Mr Alexander Wallace: The samin day ane misseive beand product concerning the excuse of Andro Forester for his absence this day, quhilk being red and considderit, the samin was fund na wayis rassonablle and thairfor he was decernit to pay x s. in penaltie according to the generall act made anent thais that neglectis the making of the exerceis. As concerning Mr Alexander Wallace becaus he hes send na excuse for his absence thairfor, the brethrein continewis pronuncein of declaratur againis him quhill he be first hard to answer for him self.

Mr Henrie Levingstone: The samin day compeirit Duncane Narne of Lokishill as commissioner for the particular sessione of the parroche kirk of S. Niniane and product thair answer concerning the doctrein teichit be Mr Henrie Levingstone in thair kirk on Sunday last, berand in effect that ane lairge numbir of the elderis and deacunis of the said kirk with sindrie gentill men being conveinit and requyrit quhat frute and edificatione thay had ressavit be his doctrein answerit all in ane voice that thay fand thame

selfis meikill profetit thairby and was varie weill satisfet thairwith, for the quhilk thay praisit the Eternall, and thairfor desyrit the brethrein to proceid in geving and pronuncein thair declaratur, quhilk of the personis conteinit in the parrochinnaris supplicatione thay find maist meit and qualefeit to accept the waightie burdein of that ministrie within the said parrochun and to admit him thairto, quhilk thay crave the brethrein maist ernistlie to do with diligence that thair kirk be nocht destitut of ane pastour, as at mair lenthe is conteinit, in the samin. With the quhilk, the brethrein being advysit, the brethrein yit as of befoir hes ordeinit the said Mr Henrie Levingston to teiche in the said parroche kirk of S. Niniane upone Sonday nixt the xxiiij day of September instant, to the effect that all present the said day may heir his doctrein quhairof it may be that sum of thame have nocht hard him of befoir and that the elderis and deacunis and utheris discreit personis of the said parrochun be requyrit to conveyin in ane assemblie immediatlie eftir the sermond, and thair eftir gude advysment declair to the commissionaris undirwrittin quhow thay ar edefeit with the said Mr Henrie Levingstonis doctrein, and be quhilk of the doctreinis teichit be the said Mr Henrie Levingstone or Mr Henrie Layng thay ar maist edefeit, and farther to answer to sic thingis as thay salbe requyrit of be our commissionaris, to wit, our brother Mr Richard Wrycht and James Duncansone, our clark, or ony of thame, and to caus report thair oppinionis faythfullie to us in our nixt assemblie to be hauldin in the kirk of Sterling the xxvj day of September instant be our said commissionaris with sum of thair awin numbir to be conjoint with thame. Upone the quhilk ordinance, the brethrein ordanis [thair scribe, *deleted*; the moderator in thair name becaus thair scribe is ane of the commissionaris abone writtin (*signed*) J. Duncansone, *substituted in margin*] to direct testificatione in wret, quhilk thay ordan the said Mr Henrie Levingstone to notifie to the said parrochinnaris to be conveyit the said day.

Mr Arthur Fethie: Compeirit Mr Arthur Fethie, minister at Airth, and productit ane ordinance of the generall assemblie, of the dait at Edinburgh the xx day of May the yeir of God im vc lxxxvj yeiris, subscriyvit be Mr James Richie, clark thair of (as appeiris), upone the bak of ane bill productit be him befoir the said

assemblie, berand the wordis follwing: The generall assemblie ordanis the commissionaris to travell with the modefearis and to sie the complenar weill providit or ellis with advys of the presbytery to tak ordur for his transportatione quhair he may be provydit. According to the quhilk and inrespect James Andirson, minister of Sterling, commissionar within thair boundis, hes according to the said ordinance travellit with the modefearis to have gottin sum augmentatione to the said Mr Arthur for his serveice bot gat na thing, and als becaus it hes plasit the kingis majestie to gif him the personage of Kinnell and thairfor detbund to sairve thair desyris lycence of the brethrein to transport him self fra Airthe to Kynnell. Quhilk commissionar being requyrit be the brethrein to testefie the trewth quhat he hes done in said mater, quha testefeis that he hes done for his part according to the said Mr Arthurs declaratioun in all pointis and obteneit na thing. Inrespect quhairof and berassone the said Mr Arthur is detbund to serve at the kirk of Kinnell for the caus foirsaid, thairfor according to the said ordinance of the generall assemblie, the commissionar with the advys of the brethrein grantis him libertie to transport him self fra the kirk of Airthe quhair he presentlie servis to the said kirk of Kinnell, provyding alwayis that he se the kirk of Airthe provydit of ane sufficient pastor befor his passing thairfra.

Adulteraris in Bathkenner, Harvy, Yung: The quhilk day ane summondis beand productit dewlie execute and indorsit upone William Harvy and Marione Yung, parrochinnaris in Bothkenner, chairgeing thame to compeir the said day to heir and sie thame self decernit to have committit adultrie and to undirly disceplein thairfoir and to seperat thame selffis undir the paine of excommunicatione, compeirit the said William and grantis that he was mareit with Cathrein Car, quhome he allegis departit fra him the speace of xx yeiris syne or thairby, and confessis that sen his said mariage he hes hade carnall copulatione with the said Marion Yung, quha is presentlie with him in hous, quhilk William is ordeinit to seperat him self fra the said Marione with all diligence and nocht to repair to hir ony way under the paine of excommunicatione, and that he compeir befor the nixt synnodall assemblie of this province haldin in the kirk of Sterling the iij day of October nixt to ressave injunccionis to be adjonit to him for his said offence of

adultrie undir the paine of excommunicatione, and the said Marione being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. Thairfore the brethrein ordanis hir to be summond *litteratorie* to heir and sie hir self decernit to be excommunicat for hir contemp and malicius disobedience to the voice of the kirk conjonit with hir said offence of adultrie, with certificatioun and scho failzie the brethrein will proceid and decern hir to be excommunicat, as said is, according to the Word of God and disceplein of the kirk havand the warrand thair of thairin.

Sessio 2a 19 Septembris

Triall of Mr Hew Myllis: The quhilk day being assignit to Mr Hew Myllis to teiche privallie in forme of exerceis on the 4 chaptur of the 1 epistill to Timothie beginning at the 12 vers of the samin, compeirit the said Mr Hew and teichit on the said text to the 15 vers of the samin exclusive in manir foirsaid in the Latein langage, quhilk being hard and jugit upone, the brethrein is nocht satisfieit with his opnein up of the mening of the text and thairfor thinkis him nocht meit to be admittit to the secund point of tryell bot ordanis him to teiche privallie in the samin forme in Ingillis langage on the xxvj day of September instant upone the viij chaptur of S. Markis evangell beginning at the 34 vers thair of.

At Sterling the xxvj day of September, 1587

Presentes: James Andirsone, Mr Duncane Andirsone, John Duncansone, Andro Forester, Mr Henrie Layng, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull, Mr Richard Wrycht, brethir of exerceis.

Andro Forester, minister at Falkirk, prophceithe as he was ordeinit and the secund plaice, vacand in absence of Mr Alexander Wallace quha sould have occupyit the samin, Johnne Duncansone addithe. The samin day the said Andro Forester was requyrit to pay x s. of penaltie, as he was ordeinit in the last sessione, for nocht making of the exerceis on the samin day as he was ordeinit and becaus the excuse of his absence than send was repellit. The said Andro answerit that he sould pay the samin sasone as he gaittis in his stepend.

Mr Henrie Levingstone: The quhilk day compeirit Mr Richard Wrycht, James Duncansone, commissionaris for the brethrein

appointit to the effect undirwritin, and Duncane Narne of Lokis-hill, in name of the particular sessione of the kirk of S. Niniane, and productit thair jugement concerning the doctrein teichit be Mr Henrie Levingstone in thair kirk on Sonday last, berand in effect that ane grit assemblie of the elderis, deacunis, barronis and gentill men of the said kirk being conveyit, and being requyrit [*recte*, inquiryt] quhow thay war edefeit with the said Mr Henreis doctrein answerit all in ane voice that thai war meikill profitit thairby and lykit varie weill of the samin, and farther being inquiryt quhethir thay fand thame selfis maist edefeit be the said Mr Henreis doctrein or Mr Henrie Layngis and quhilk of the saidis twa personis thay wald rathest that the presbytery sould appoint to be thair minister, to the quhilk the saidis parrochinnaris answerit that thay wald continew thair declaratur on that hed to Twysday the iij day of October nixt, and that at the request of my lord of Cambuskynneith quha promesit to report to the synnodall assemblie of this province to be hauldin in the kirk of Sterling the said day ane answer fra David Home quhethir gif he wald accept on him the ministrie of the said kirk as was appointit be the generall assemblie or nocht, as at mair lynth is conteinit in the samin. With the quhilk, the brethrein being advysit hes thocht gude to continew farther procedein in the said mater to the said iij day of October nixt, and the said Mr Henrie Levingston offiris to studie the commone placis and grundis of religione quhairby he may be prepairit to answer thairon the said day gif the brethrein of the said assemblie sall than think gude to examin him thair of, to the quhilk the brethrein consentis.

Waltir Buchannan: The quhilk day compeirit Waltir Buchannan, brother to Johnne Buchannan of Arnepriour, and desyrit of the brethrein that thai sould continue farther procedein againis him anent the craving ane confessione of his fayth and religione, berasone he was to depart schortlie furth of this cuntrie and promesis faythfullie to depart furth of the same betuix and the ellevin day of November and the faist of Mertimes nixttocum without farther delay. With the quhilk desyr the brethrein being advysit, James Andirsone, commissionar and moderator in this assemblie, in the name of God and his kirk present, admonesit the said Walter Buchannan to profes and subscribe the reformat religione professit

publictlie within this realme and to renunce all contrar religione thairunto, speciallie the heresie of the papeistis, betuix and the feast of Mertimes nixt (gif he be than present in the realme) undir the paine of excommunicatioun and this for the first admonitione.

Tryell off William Sterling, Mr Adame Mairschell: In the terme assignit be the brethrein to pronounce thair jugementis concerning the habilitie of Mr Adame Mairschell and William Sterling to continew in the ministrie, compeirit the said William Sterling, quha is appointit to teiche on the xvij chaptur of S. Mathowis evangell, beginning at the 12 vers thairof privallie in forme of publict doctrein on the iij day of October nixt in presens of the synnodall assemblie of this province to be convenit in this plaice for the tym, to the quhilk day the brethrein continewis the pronuncein of thair judgement concerning his habilitie to continew in the ministrie. As tuichein Mr Adame Mairschell, he being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht. Thairfor the brethrein ordanis him to teiche the said day in presens of the samin assemblie on the iij chaptur of S. Johnis evangell, beginning at the 18 vers thairof privallie in forme of publict doctrein, to the quhilk day the brethrein continewis the pronuncein of thair judgement concerning his habilitie to continew in the ministrie. Off the quhilk ordinance and continewatione, the brethrein ordanis James Duncansone, thair clark, to mak dew intimatione to him in wret that he may be prepairit thairfoir as apperteinis.

Patrik Layng: The brethrein ordanis Patrik Layng to teiche on the xj chaptur of S. Mathowis evangell, beginning at the 18 vers thairof, on the iij day of October nixt in presens of the nixt synnodall assemblie of this province to be hauldin in this plaice the said day and that privallie in forme of publict doctrein. Off the quhilk ordinance, the brethrein ordanis James Duncansone, thair scrib, to mak dew intimatione in wret and also thairby to warne him to compeir the said day to heir and sie the brethreinis judgement pronuncit concerning his habilitie to continew in the ministrie.

Sessio 2a

Tryell of Mr Hew Myllis: The quhilk day being assignit to Mr Hew Myllis to teiche privallie in forme of exerceis on the 8 chaptur of S. Markis evangell beginning at the 34 vers thairof, compeirit the said Mr Hew and teichit on the said text beginning at the vers

foirsaid to the 35 vers of the samin exclusive quhais doctrein being hard and jugit on, the brethrein findis the said text to be nawyis opnit up as is requisit and thairfor ar nocht satisfet with him as yit concerning this point of tryell. Nochttheles, at his awin desyr, he is appointit to teiche on the samin chaptur foirsaid, beginning at the 35 vers thairof, quhair he left privallie in forme off exerceis, and that in presens of the brethrein, on the x day of October nixttocum for his farther tryell. And als the said Mr Hew is inhibit that he nawayis mell with the exerceis of ony part of the ministrie of the kirk at the kirk of Muckert nor na uthir kirk quhill he be lauchfullie admittit thairto undir the paine off disobedience to the voice of the kirk.

The synnodall assembleie of this province was hauldin in Sterling on the iij day of October 1587 and thairfor thair was na exerceis this day bot the doctrein usit at sic assembleis, quhilk synnodall assembleie and materis done thairintill ar conteinit in the buik of disceplein thairof.

At Sterling the x day of October, 1587

Presentes: James Andirson, Alexander Fargy, Mr Alexander Wallace, Mr Henrie Layng, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull and Mr Richard Wrycht, brethir of exerceis.

The samin day, Mr Alexander Wallace propheceithe as he was ordeinit and Mr Henrie Layng addithe thairto in the secund plaice at the desyr of Mr Arthur Fethie, quha sould have occupyit the samin, quha proponit in the last sessione ane excuse for his absence this day quhilk was admittit.

Admissione of Mr Henrie Levingstone: The quhilk day compeirit Alexander Fargy, minister at Logy, and declairit to the brethrein that on Sunday last the viij day of October instant he teichit in S. Ninianis kirk and eftir the end of his sermon, accordein to ane commissione gevin him of the last synnodall assembleie of this province, he made dew and lauchfull intimatione to the hail parrochinnaris convenit for the tyme that the brethrein of the said assembleie, being ryplie advysit with the literatur and qualificatione of Mr Henrie Levingstone, had fund him qualefeit and meit to be admittit ordinar pastur to thame. And thairfor in the name of God

and his kirk desyrit all personis quhatsumevir that hade to oppone againis him ony way in lyf and conversatione that may unablle him to be admittit to the said waightie chaarge that thay compeir befor the brethrein of the presbytery of Sterling in the parroche kirk thair of the ten day of October instant in the hour of caus, thair to declair the samin, with certificatioun gif na lauchfull impediment be opponit the said day that he wilbe fullie admittit ordinar pastur to thame, according to the ordur, conforme to his said commissione in all pointis, of the quhilk he producit the extract befor the brethrein, quhilk being red and his report jugit on, he is fund to have execute his said commissione dewlie according thairto. Eftir the quhilkis, all personis quhatsumevir in generall that hade to say againis the said Mr Henrie Levingstone in lyf and conversatione (gif ony was) being oft tymis callit, nane compeirit, lauchfull tyme of day biddin. The brethrein accordein to the judgement of the said synodall assemblie and the certificatione abone specefeit hes admittit and admittis the said Mr Henrie Levingstone ordinar pastour to the said parroche kirk callit of auld S. Ninianis kirk besyd Sterling with full powar to him to teiche Godis Word, ministrat the sacramentis and execute disceplein with all uthir exerceis appertening to his offeice accordein to the Word of God in all pointis. And also the brethrein ordanis James Andirsone, minister at Sterling, commissioner, to pas to the said parroche kirk on Sonday the xv day of October instant and thair eftir sermond to notifie the said Mr Henreis admisione to the parrochinnaris thair of, and to plaice him ordinar pastur thairat according to the ordur, acceptand promeis of the said Mr Henrie solemlie that he salbe ane trew and faythfull pastur to that flock as Godis Word prescryvis swafar as it sall plais God to assist him with his Spirit, and that he crave the said parrochinnaris consent to his admisione and plaisein, with ane promeis that thai salbe obedient to the said Mr Henrie, thair minister, according to Godis Word, swalang as he remains faithfull in his offeice. And ordanis the commissioner to report his diligence heirin to the brethrein on the xvij day of October instant.

Mr Andro Kirk: The samin day compeirit Andro Kirk, reder at the kirk of Muckert, and declairit that he hade ane yung mane to his sone callit Mr Andro Kirk, quha is reder presentlie at the kirk

of Dysert, and is myndit to exerceis his talent in the ministrie gif he salbe fund qualefeit and meit thairto, and thairfor is willein to offir him self to ane tryell of the brethrein of this presbytery. Quhairfor the said Andro Kirk desyrit that the brethrein wald appoint ane text to be teichit on be the said Mr Andro on quhat day thay sould think meit and he sould report the samin to him. Quhilk desyr, the brethrein findis rassonable and thairfor thay have thocht gude that the said Mr Andro sall prepar him self to teiche on the xj chaptur of S. Mathowis evangell, beginning at the 28 vers thairof to the end of the chaptur, privallie in forme of exerceis, and that on the xxiiij day of this instant moneth of October quhairof the said Andro is ordeinit to mak him dewlie advertesit.

Sessio 2a

Tryell of Patrik Layng: The quhilk day being assignit be the brethrein of the last synodall assemblie of this province to Patrik Layng to teiche on the xvij chaptur of S. Mathowis evangell, beginning at the 7 vers thairof, privallie in forme of publict doctrein, compeirit the said Patrik and teichit on the text fairsaid to the 10 vers of the samin exclusive, quhais doctrein being jugit upone, the brethrein ar nawayis satisfieit with him concerning this point of tryell, and thairfor he is ordeinit to sustein farther tryell on this point, and to that effect he is ordeinit to teiche on the text nixt follwein the said text now teichit be him, in forme of publict doctrein privallie on the xxiiij day of October instant.

Tryell of Mr Hew Myllis: The samin day being assignit to Mr Hew Myllis to teiche on the viij chaptur of S. Markis evangell beginning quhair he laist laft at the 35 vers of the samin, compeirit the said Mr Hew and teichit on the said text to the end of the chaptur privallie in forme of exerceis, quhais doctrein being jugit on the brethrein findis the samin nocht swa soundlie teichit aggreing with the text as becumis and thairfoir thai ar nocht satisfieit with him concerning this point of tryell. Inrespect quhairof, he is exhortit to continew in studie of the scripturis and pray to God to blis him thairin quhill he be mair abill to profite in the kirk.

At Sterling the xvij day of October, 1587

Presentes: James Andirson, Johnne Duncansone, Mr Henrie

Levingstone, Mr William Cwper, Andro Forester, Mr Alexander Wallace, Mr Henrie Layng, Robert Mentayth, Alexander Fargy, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull, Mr Richard Wrycht, brethir of exerceis.

Mr Henrie Layng propheceithe in the plaice and at desyr of Mr Arthur Fethie, quha sould have occupyit the samin, and Mr Alexander Iull addithe thairto as thay war ordeinit.

Mr Henrie Levingstone placit minister at S. Ninians kirk: The quhilk day being assignit to James Andirsone, minister at Sterling, commissioner, to report his diligence anent the plaisein of Mr Henrie Levingstone ordinar pastour at S. Ninianis kirk according to his commissione, compeirit the said James and declairit that he for obedience of the brethreinis ordinance made thairanent past to the said parroche kirk on Sondag the xv of this instant quhair he aftir sermond made dew intimatioun to the parrochinnaris thair of of the said Mr Henreis admisione as lykwys of the brethreinis ordinance commanding him to plaice the said Mr Henrie ordinar pastour thairat, quhilk he than red publictlye as the samin of the deat at Sterling the x day of October at lynthe beris. Eftir the quhilk, he desyrit the said Mr Henrie Levingstone to declair on his conscience gif he was content to entir minister to the said flock and to accept the chairge thair of, quha answerit that glaidlie he wald according to the commandement of the kirk, inrespect he was assurit in conscience that he was lauchfullie callit thairto be God. And siclyk the said James Andirsone requirit of the said congregatioun gif thay war content to accept him to be thair ordinar pastour and wald promise solemnlie to acknowlaige him for the samin, and to obey, reverence and assist him in his offeice in all thingis according to the Word of God, swa lang as he remainit faythfull in his offeice, quhilk gif thay wald do he desyrit thame and everie ane of thame to notifie the samin to him be uphaldein of thair handis, quhilk thay did, and further Alexander Forester of Garden, ane honerabll mane, zalus in religione, and ane of the principall of the said congregatioun, for him self and in name of the remanent parrochinnaris, tuke the said Mr Henrie be the hand and acceptit him as thair ordinar pastour. And als the said Mr Henrie being desyrit to promise to the saidis parrochinnaris to be faythfull in his offeice, quha promesit solemnlye to be ane trew and faythfull pastur to

thame as Godis Word cravis, swafar as it sall plais God to assist him with his Spirit. And swa the said Mr Henrie was plaissit and admittit ordinar pastur to the said kirk callit of auld S. Ninianis kirk. For blissein of the quhilk wark in his handis, the said James Andirsone, commissionar, made solem prayer. And this was done in presens of the godlie personis follwein besyd the ordinar parrochinnaris of the said kirk, viz., Robert Forester of Boquhen, last provest off Sterling, Mr James Pont, commissar of Dunblane, Mr Alexander Iull, Mr Richard Wrycht, brethir of the exerceis of Sterling, Johnne Auchtmuttery and Patrik Kinros, burgessis of the samin brugh, and this for the report of the said James Andirsone, done in the mater abone wrettin according to the commissione gevin to him thairanent, quhilk the brethrein jugit to be formallie done.

At Sterling the xxiiij day of October, 1587

Presentes: James Andirsone, Johnne Duncansone, Mr Henrie Levingstone, Mr Henrie Layng, Robert Mentayth, Alexander Fargy, Mr William Cwpper, Mr Andro Murdo, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull and Mr Richard Wrycht, brethir of exerceis.

The quhilk day Mr Alexander Iull propheceithe and Mr Richard Wrycht addithe in the secund plaice as thay war ordeinit.

Harvie and Yung, adulteraris in Bathkenner: The quhilk day ane summondis beand product dewlie execute and indorsit upone Marione Yung in Bothkenner chairgeing hir to compeir the said day to heir and sie hir self decernit to be excommunicat for hir contemp and malicius disobedience to the voice of the kirk conjonit with adultrie, compeirit the said Marione Yung and William Harvie in Bothkainner, quha confessis that thai have had carnall daill togethir sindrie yeiris bygane and hes gottin sindrie bairnis togethir sen he was mareit on Elezabeth Car, quhilk Elezabeth, he allegis, past fra him mony yeiris syne and he hes nocht sein hir and thairfor he knawis nocht gif scho be dade or nocht, and confessis that he hes nevir ressavit ony assurance nor testimony of hir daythe. Inrespect of the quhilk confessione made be bayth the saidis personis, thay ar decernit to have committit adultrie, and thairfor ar commandit to separat thame selffis and remane sindrie at all tymis fra

thisfurth undir the paine of excommunicatioun, quhilk thay promeis to obey. And the said Marione submittis hir self obedient to the commandement of the kirk, and the said William siclyk offiris him self obedient to the kirk according to the publict admonitione gevin be Mr William Cwper, his ordinar pastour, on Sondag last. Inrespect quhairof, he desyris that the pronuncein of the sentence of excommunicatioun be stayit againis him. According to the quhilk desyr inrespect of his said obedience, the brethrein commandis the said Mr William to stay farther proceidein againis him swa lang as he continewis obedient to the voice of the kirk and decernis and ordanis the said William Harvie and Marione Yung to mak publict repentence in thair awin parroche kirk of Bothkenner ilk Sondag in thair awin clathis as thai salbe commandit be thair minister quhill the nixt synnodall assembleie of this province to be hauldin in the parroche kirk of Dunblane the secund day of Aprill nixt, and thair to compeir the said day and ressave sic farther injunctionis as salbe injonit to thame and obey the samin undir the paine of excommunicatioun.

Mr Adam Mairschell, Mr Andro Kirk: The quhilk day being assignit to Mr Adam Merschell to present ane mane indewit with gude giftis abill to proffeit in the kirk and namelie worthie to be admittit ordinar pastour to the kirk of [blank], quhair he presentlie servis, as ane act made in the last synnodall assembleie at mair lynthe beris, compeirit Andro Kirk, reder at Muckert, and producit ane misseive wretein subscrivit be him (as appeiris) berand in effect that he hes done his diligence to obey the said ordinance of the last synnodall assembleie, and hes spokin Mr Andro Kirk thairanent and hes causit him compeir this day to be tryit be the brethrein quhairby thay may undirstand gif he be abill and qualefeit to be admittit to the plaice fairsaid. Quhilk Mr Andro Kirk being callit on and desyrit gif he wald present him self to tryell of the brethrein to the effect fairsaid, he ansorit that glaidlie he wald and declairit that he was prepairit reddie to teiche on the text appointit to him be the brethrein, viz., on the xj chaptur of S. Mathowis evangell, beginning at the 28 vers thair of, in forme appointit to him. The brethrein appointis him to teiche on the samin this day at twa houris aftir none quhilk he promesit to obey.

Sessio 2a

Tryell off Mr Andro Kirk: The said Mr Andro Kirk havein teichit on the said text privallie in forme of exerceis, quhilk being hard and the brethreinis jugement thairon cravit, the samin was teichit in the Latein langage and fund sound doctrein, aggreing with the annalagie of fayth, quhairby the brethrein hoipis weill of him. Nochttheles for farther tryell of him in this samin point, the brethrein ordanis him to teiche on the beginning of the xij chaptur of S. Mathowis evangell in Ingillis langage privallie in forme of exerceis on the last day of this instant moneth of October.

Tryell off Patrik Layng: The quhilk day being assignit to Patrik Layng to teiche on the xvij chaptur of S. Mathowis evangell, beginning at the x vers thair of, privallie in forme of publict doctrein, compeirit the said Patrik and teichit on the said text to the 15 vers of the samin exclusive in forme foirsaid, quhais doctrein being jugit the samin is fund aggreing with the annalagie of fayth bot nocht swa sufficient as is requisit to be teichit be ane pastur in the kirk, and thairfor the brethrein as yit continewis him undir farther tryell quhill the brethrein be farther advysit concerning his habilitie to continew in the ministrie, and presentlie admonesis him to frequent the exerceis oftir nor he hes done for his bettir instructioun, and that he be reddy to teiche thairin as he salbe commandit.

At Sterling the last day of October, 1587

Presentes: James Andirson, Mr Arthur Fethie, Mr Henrie Levingstone, Mr Henrie Layng, Robert Mentayth, Mr Patrik Walkinschaw, Mr Andro Murdo, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull and Maister Richard Wrycht, brothir of exerceis.

The quhilk day Mr Richard Wrycht propheceithe and Mr Henrie Levingstone addithe in the secund plaice as thay war ordeinit.

Admissione of Mr Andro Murdo, minister to Kippen: The quhilk day compeirit Johnne Forester in Daischur within the parrochun of Kippen, for him self and in name of the parrochinnaris of Kippen, and declairit that forsamekill as the brethrein of the last synnodall assembleie of this province hes deprivit William Sterling, thair last nammit minister, from all functione in the kirk except simpill reidein allanirle, quhairby thay ar destitute of ane pastour to teiche

Godis Word, ministrat the sacramentis and celebrat mariage to thame, and thairfor he presentit ane supplicatione, in name of the saidis parrochinnaris subscryvit be sindrie of the maist discreit men thairof, contenand commissione to him to that effect and to crave answer thairof, berand in effect that thay have thocht gude to mak sute to the brethrein to desyr thame to try and exame Williame Sterling, Mr Henrie Layng and Maistir Andro Murdo or ony ane of thame to the effect that he of thir, quha be tryell of the brethrein salbe fund best qualefeit or maist meit to be thair pastur, may be be us nominat and admittit thair ordinar according to the ordur, as the samin supplicatione in the self at mair lynthe beris. With the quhilk the brethrein being advysit and first concerning William Sterling, the first in lyt desyrit to be tryit in the said supplicatione, it is answerit that becaus the said William is deposit from all functione in the kirk (excep reidein allanirlie) be the last synodall assembleie of this province in this instant moneth of October, cheiffie for ignorance of the scripturis, thairfor the brethrein jugis him nocht qualefeit sufficient to be admittit minister to the said kirk and thairfor refusis to admit him thairto. Secundlie, concerning Mr Henrie Layng, the secund persone in lit desyrit to be tryit in the said supplicatione, he is inquyrit be the moderator gif he will accept the burdein of the ministrie to the saidis parrochinnaris (the brethrein fundein him meit thairfoir). He ansorit negative, and thairfor the brethrein thinkis nocht gude to burdein him thairwith. Thridlie, concerning Mr Andro Murdo, the last persone in lit, desyrit to be tryit in the said supplicatione, quhome the brethrein knawis is alreddie lauchfullie admittit ane minister of the evangell of Jesus Christ in the kirk, and findein him willein to accept the charge of ane ordinar pastour to the parrochinnaris of the said kirk of Kippen, and of sufficient qualeteis for that plaice thairfoir to have admittit and appointit and be thir presentis admittis and appointis and the said Mr Andro Murdo ordinar pastour to the parrochinnaris of the said kirk of Kippen with full powar to him to teiche Godis Word, ministrat the sacramentis and exerceis disceplein with all uthir exerceis appertening to his offeice, and ordanis him to be placit ordinar pastor thairat according to the ordur.

Sessio 2a

Tryell of Mr Andro Kirk: The quhilk day being assignit to Mr

Andro Kirk to teiche on the xij chaptur of S. Mathowis evangell at the beginning privallie in forme of exerceis, compeirit the said Mr Andro and teichit on the said text to the 5 vers thair of exclusive, quhais doctrein being jugit on, the samin is fund sound aggreing with the annalegie of fayth. Nochttheles, the brethrein as yit is nocht satisfeit with him concerning this point of tryell and thairfor ordanis him to teiche in the samin forme on the text nixt follwein the foirsaid text now teichit be him, and that he prepar him self thairfor upone advertisement eftir the plat.

At Sterling the vij day of November, 1587

Presentes: James Andirson, Mr Andro Yung, Mr Henrie Levingstone, Mr Henrie Layng, Mr Andro Murdo, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iule, Mr Richard Wrycht, brethir of exerceis.

The quhilk day Mr Henrie Levingstone propheceithe and Mr Henrie Layng addithe in the second plaice as thay war ordeinit.

At Sterling the xiiij day of November, 1587

Presentes: James Andirson, Mr Henrie Levingstone, Alexander Fargy, Mr William Cwper, Mr Henrie Layng, Mr Andro Murdo, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull and Mr Richard Wrycht, brether of exerceis.

The quhilk day James Andirson made the exerceis, as he was ordeinit, and Mr Andro Murdo addithe in the plaice of Alexander Fargy, quhais absence was excusit berassone of disais and seiknes quhilk excuse was admittit.

At Sterling the xvij day of November, 1587

Bischoff off Dunblane: The quhilk day the commissioner of this province and certane of the brethrein of the presbyteriis of Sterling and Dunblane being convenit and undirstandein perfytlie that William Chisholme, bischoff of Dunblane, is schortsyne arrayvit, within this realme, quha is notourlie knawin to be ane papeist and ennemie to the reformat religion professit publictlie within this realme aggreing with the Word of God, and thairfor the brethrein

ordanis him to be summond *litteratorie* to compeir befor the brethrein of the saidis presbyteriis to gif ane confessione of his fayth and religione and to subscrive the confessione of fayth subscrivit be the kingis majestie and his houshald and the rest of the faithfull within this realme, undir the paine of excommunicatione, with certificatione and he compeir nocht or compeir and refuse to profes and subscrive the said confessione of fayth, as said is, thay will proceed with the censur of excommunicatione againis him for his contemp and disobedience to the voice of the kirk and continuance in that corruptit religione of papistrie repugnant to the Word of God.

Upone the xxj day of November, 1587 beand ane ordinar day of exerceis, thair was na prophecie of the Wo[r]ld, berassone the maist part of the brethrein of this presbytery was in Edinburgh the said day all waittein on the lordis modefearis of ministeris stependis this year.

At Sterling the xxviii day of November, 1587

Presentes: James Andirson, Mr Andro Yung, Mr Henrie Levingstone, Mr Alexander Wallace, Robert Mentayth, Mr William Cwpper, Mr Andro Murdo, Mr Henrie Layng, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull and Mr Richard Wrycht, brethir of exerceis.

The quhilk day Mr Andro Murdo propheceithe in plaice of Alexander Fargy, quha was seik for the present, and Mr William Cwpper addithe in the secund plaice, as he was ordeinit.

Ane publict fast appointit: The quhilk day the brethrein thinkis gude and hes ordeinit for avoidein executione of the plaigis of God, hingand above our heddis for sin, that thair be ane publict humiliatione and fast with ane exerceis of teichein the Word conjonit thairwith, according to the ordur observit and keipit in all the parrochinnis within the boundis of this presbytery on thir twa nixt Sundayis and the oulk betuix for the causis follwein in speciall: 1. for the plaig off pest begun alreddie in Edinburgh and Leyth; secundlie for persecution of the kirk of God in France and uthir parttis be the ennemeis thairof publictlie and privallie in all parttis;

thriddle, the flowein to this realme of grit multitudis of papeistis and Jesueittis without ony respect tane thairto be the civill magistrat, tendein throw thair prive persuasionis to subvert the religione; fourtlie, the grit aboundance of schaddein of blude in this countrie without ony puneishment or remady made thairfoir be the civill magistrat, and thir speciallis besydis mony uthir vycis that aboundis in this cuntrie, quhilk daylie provokis the executione of the just jugementis of God unles we prevent the samin be unfainzit repentence.

At Sterling the fyft day of December, 1587

Presentes: James Andirsone, commissionar; Alexander Fargy, Andro Forester, Robert Mentayth, Mr Andro Murdo, Mr Henrie Levingstone, Mr Henrie Layng, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull and Mr Richard Wrycht, brethir of exerceis within the boundis of the presbytery of Sterling; Mr Andro Yung, Mr James Burdun, William Drummond, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Johnne Burdun, Mr William Sterling, brethrein of the exerceis of the presbytery of Dunblane.

The quhilk day thair was na prophecie berassone the samin day was ane day quhairon ordinar doctrein was teichit in the tyme of the publict fast.

[*In margin:* The proces concerning the bischop of Dunblane omittit heir, quhilk is to be fund in the 4 paige follwein heirfra. J. Duncansone.]

At Sterling the xij day of December, 1587

Presentes: James Andirsone, Mr Henrie Levingstone, Mr Henrie Layng, Mr William Cwper; Mr Alexander Iull and Mr Richard Wrycht, brethir of exerceis in the presbytery of Sterling; Mr William Sterling, Mr Andro Yung and Mr Alexander Chisholme, brethrein of exerceis and ministeris within the boundis of the presbytery of Dunblane.

The quhilk day Mr William Cowper propheceithe and James Andirsone addithe in the secund plaice as thay war ordeinit.

[*In margin:* The proces concerning the bischop of Dunblane

omittit heir quhilk is to be fund in the 5 paige follwein heirfra. J. Duncanson.]

Mr Henlie [sic] *Layng admittit minister to Airthe*: The quhilk day compeirit Johnne Bruce, brother to Alexander Bruce of Airthe, George Brys in Airthe, elderis of the parroche kirk thairof, and David Thomesone, deacun of the samin kirk, quha exponit and declairit to the brethrein that forsamekill as be the transportein of Mr Arthur Fethie, thair last minister, fra thame to the kirk of Kinnell in Angus thair kirk presentlie was desolat of ane ordinar pastour, and seing that congregacione hade sindrie and dyvers tymis hard Mr Henrie Layng teiche Godis Word unto thame, be quhais doctrein thay fand thame selffis baithe edefeit and confortit, thairfor schew that thair congregacione hade directit thame this day to the brethrein of this assembleie to crave the said Mr Henrie to be appointit and placit ordinar pastour to thame according to the ordur, promesein to him love, reverence and assistance in his callein. With the quhilk desyr, the brethrein being advysit and findein the said Mr Henrie maist willein to accept that chairge and of sufficient qualeteis for that plaice, thairfore to have admittit and appointit and be thir presentis admittis and appointis the said Mr Henrie Layng ordinar pastour to the parrochinnaris of the said kirk of Airthe, with full powar to him to teiche Godis Word, ministrat the sacramentis and execute disceplein with all uthir exerceis appertening to his offeice, and ordanis thair brother Mr William Cowpper, minister at Bathkenner, to pas to the said kirk of Airthe the nixt Sondag the xvij day of this instant, and thair eftir sermond to notifie the said Mr Henreis admisionne to the parrochinnaris thairof, and to desyr thame (gif thay consent thairto) that thay declair him the samin be the signe of uphaldein of thair handis, and siclyk to desyr the said Mr Henrie to declair in presens of the parrochinnaris gif he will accept the said burdein on him, quhilk beand declarit affirmative that ye plaice him ordinar pastour thairat, acceptand promeis of the parrochinnaris that thay salbe obedient to thair said pastour according to Godis Word, swalang as he continewis faithfull in his offeice, and that the said Mr Henrie promeis solemlie that he salbe ane trew and faithfull pastour to that flock according to his calling, swafar as it sall plais God to assist him with his Holie Spirit.

At Sterling the xix day of December, 1587

Presentes: James Andirsone, Mr Henrie Levingstone, Mr Henrie Layng, Mr Andro Murdo, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull and Mr Richard Wrycht, brethir of exerceis.

The quhilk day, James Andirsone, propheceithe as he was ordeinit and becaus Alexander Fargy was absent, quha sould have occupyit the second plaice, Mr Henrie Levingston addithe in the second plaice.

The samin day ane excuse of Alexander Fargyis being proponit for his absence and neglecting of the second plaice, to wit, that he was disaisit be seiknes, the samin was repellit becaus he wald nocht request ane uthir to keip the plaice for him, and thairfor was convict in v s. as for the penaltie appointit to be payit be thais that neglectis the second plaice in additione, and als ordanis the said Alexander to teiche in the first plaice of the exerceis and Robert Mentayth to ad in the second plaice on the xxvj day of this instant moneth, and gif the said Alexander may nocht do it him self for seiknes that he caus ane uthir brothir occupy his plaice thairin undir the pain conteinit in the generall act made thairanent.

Sessio 2a

Tryell of Mr Andro Kirk: The quhilk day Mr Andro Kirk compeirit and teichit privallie on the xij chaptur of S. Mathowis evangell, beginning at the 5 vers thair of to the 9 vers of the samin exclusive, in forme of exerceis as he was ordeinit, quhais doctrein being jugit on the samin is fund sound aggreing with the annalagie of fayth, bot yit the brethrein ar nocht satisfieit with him concerning this point of tryell and thairfoir he is appointit, yit as of befoir, to teich privallie in forme of exerceis on the viij chaptur of the [e]pistill wrettin to the Romanis at the beginning thair of on the xxvj day of December instant.

At Sterling the xxvj day of December, 1587

Presentes: James Andirsone, Mr Henrie Levingstone, Mr Andro Murdo, Alexander Fargy, Robert Mentayth, ministeris; and Mr Alexander Iull, ane brother of exerceis.

The quhilk day Alexander Fargy propheceithe and Robert Mentayth addithe in the secund plaice as thay war ordeinit.

Waltir Buchannan: The quhilk day the brethrein undirstandein that upone the xxvj day of September last bypast Waltir Buchannan, brother to Johnne Buchannan of Arnepriour, desyrit of thame continewatione of farther procedein againis him concerning the cravein of the confessione of his fayth becaus he than promesit to pas furth of the cuntrie betuix and the xj day of November nixt, viz., Mertimes, without farther deley, at the quhilk tyme he was admonesit to recant his papisticall errur, profes and subscribe the reformat religione publictly professit within this realm, betuix and the said day, gif he war than present in the cuntrie, undir the paine of excommunicatioun, as ane act made the said day at mair lynthe beris, and albeit it be of varetie that the said faist of Mertimes be of lang tyme bypast and that the said Walter remanis as yit within this realme undepartit furth of the samin, nochttheles he hes nocht obeyit the said admonitione nather yit hes he repairit to the preichein of the Word of God at ony tym sen he was first challengit be the brethrein knawin to ony of thame quhair he hes chieflie remainit sensyne, to wit, the spaice of ane haill yeir compleit albeit he hes bein oft and dyvers tymis requyrit thairto and thairfor the brethrein ordanis the said Walter to be summond *litteratorie* to compeir befor thame and the brethrein of the presbytery of Dunblane to heir and sie him self decernit to be excommunicat for his said contemp and disobedience with certificatione and he compeir nocht or compeir and refuse to profes and subscribe the confessione of fayth subscriyvit be the kingis majestie and his houshould thay will decern him to be admonesit publictly according to the ordur, to renunce all papistrie in generall and in speciall as is set down in the said confessione of fayth, profes the reformat religione publictly professit within this realme and to subscribe the said confessione of fayth, quhilk admonitionis being all disobeyit that he salbe pronuncit excommunicat for his contemp and disobedience to the voice of the kirk reformat within this realme and continuance in that corruptit religione of papistrie repugnant to the Word of God, according to the same Word and disceplein of the kirk havand the warrand thair of thairin.

Buchannan of Arnepriour: The samin day the brethrein undirstand ein that Johnne Buchannan of Arnepriour hes declairit him self in sindrie partis to be ane papeist and hes rassonit for defence of the heresie thairof with sindrie personis, thairfor the brethrein ordanis the said Johnne to be summond *litteratorie* to compeir befor the brethrein to gif ane confessione of his fayth and religione and to subscriye the confessione of fayth subscrivit be the kingis majestie and his houshald, undir the paine of disobedience.

The quhilk day compeirit William Kay, adulterar, with Elezabeth Galbrayth, as he hes confessit of befor, and desyris Mr Andro Murdo, his minister, to be commandit to bapteis his bairne gottin on the said Elezabeth and he sall obey the ordinance of the kirk for his said offence. The brethrein ordanis him to caus cautione for him becum actit in the commissaris buikis of Sterling that he sall obey the injunctionis injonit to him in the last synnodall assemblie for his said offence undir the paine of xl lib., quhilk beand done ordanis the said Mr Andro to bapteis his bairne.

Sessio 2a

Tryall of Mr Andro Kirk: The quhilk day appointit to Mr Andro Kirk to teich on the viij chaptur of the epistill to the Romanis at the beginning privallie in forme of exerceis, compeirit the said Mr Andro and teichit on the said text privallie in maner foirsaid to the 4 vers thairof exclusive. Quhilk being jugit upone, the samin is fund sound and profitabll doctrein inrespect quhairof the brethrein is satisfet with him concerning this point of tryell, and admittis him to the secund point of tryell, viz., to exerceis publictlie, and thairfor ordanis him to ad in the secund plaice of the privie exerceis on the ordinar text thairof on the nixt Twysday day, the second day of Januar nixt.

[*In margin*: The proces of the actis tuichein the bischop of Dunblane, quhilk sould be insert with the actis made respective the fyft and xij dayis of December mentionat on the 4 paige heir precedein and quhilk was omittit thair. J. Duncansone.]

At Sterling the fyft day of December, 1587

Presentes: James Andirson, commissioner; Alexander Fargy, Andro Forester, Robert Mentayth, Mr Andro Murdo, Mr Henrie

Levingstone, Mr Henrie Layng, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull and Mr Richard Wrycht, brethir of exerceis within the boundis of the presbytery of Sterling; Mr Andro Yung, Mr James Burdun, Mr William Drummond, Mr Alexander Chisholme, Johnne Burdun, Mr William Sterling, ministeris and brethrein of exerceis within the boundis of the presbytery off Dunblane.

Bischoff off Dunblane: The quhilk day ane summondis beand producit dewlie execute and indorsit upone Williame Chisholme, bischoff of Dunblane, chairgein him to compeir the said day to gif ane confessione of fayth and religione, to profes and subscrivye the confessione of fayth subscrivrit be the kingis majestie and his houshald and the rest of the faythfull within this realme undir the paine of excommunicatione, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis, quhilk bischoff being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, bot James commendatar of Inchaffray and James Chisholme of Cromlickis compeirand for him and in his name allegit that the said bischoff haid ane disais fallin in his leg quhairthrow he mycht nawayis travell to compeir befor this assemblie and thairfor desyrit the brethrein to superseid farther procedein againis him quhill he war summond *de novo* that in the mantyme he may resolve him self gif he will profes our religione publictly professit within this realme or ellis to depart aff the cuntrie. The brethrein being advysit with the said desyr findis na testimoniall in wret producit testefeand the said bischopis disais nather yit ony powar of him to the said honorablle men to desyr thair said petitione in his name. Nochttheles, the brethrein for avoydein of all kynd of occasione that may appeir of thair sudden proceidein in the said mater hes thocht gude to proceid in proces againis the said bischoff in manir follwein, that is to say, becaus of the said allegit defens thay have ordeinit and ordeinis thair brethrein Maisteris Andro Yung and Henrie Levingstone, ministeris, to pas to the said William, bischoff of Dunblane (gif he can be personallie apprehendit), and to confer with him anent his religione, and in the name of God to requyr him to profes and subscrivye the confessione of fayth and religione abone mentionat and farther according to the ordur, and gif he refuse that thai admoneis him in the name of God and of his reformat kirk within this realme of Scotland to compeir befor the breithrein of the presbyteriis of Sterling and Dunblane in the parroche kirk of Sterling the vij day of

December instant in the hour of caus, thair to recant his papisticall erruris, to profes and subscryve the said confessione of faythe undir the paine of excommunicatione, and [*inserted in margin*: ordanis him to be summond *de novo* to the effect abonementionat with certificatioun conteinit in the last summondis and that the brethrein foirsaid, (*signed*) J. Duncansone], or sum uthir brother or officiar execute the summondis direct to that effect, according thairto in all pointis, and quhatsoevir the said brethrein dois heirintill that thay report the samin in our nixt assemblie to be hauldin in the kirk of Sterling the said xij day of December instant. The quhilkis to do, the brethrein of the saidis presbyteriis gevis full commissione and powar to the saidis Maisteris Andro Yung and Henrie Levingstone conjunctlie and severallie.

At Sterling the xij day of December, 1587

Presentes: James Andirsone, commissioner; Mr Henrie Levingstone, Mr Henrie Layng, Mr William Cwper, ministeris; Mr Alexander Iull and Mr Richard Wrycht, brethir of exerceis in the presbytery of Sterling; Mr William Sterling, Mr Andro Yung and Mr Alexander Chisholme, ministeris and brethrein of exerceis in the presbytery of Dunblane.

Bischof off Dunblane: The quhilk day anent the commissione gevin to Maisteris Andro Yung and Henrie Levingstone, ministeris, to pas and confer with William, bischof of Dunblane, anent his religione, as the act thair of at mair lynthe beiris, compeirit the saidis Maisteris Andro Yung and Henrie Levingstone and reportit thair diligence done thairanent, as it bearis in the self, quhair of the tennour follwis.

Bischof off Dunblane decernit to be excommunicat: Upone the vij day of December *anno* etc., lxxxvij yeiris, we, Maisteris Andro Yung and Henrie Levingstone, ministeris withinwrittein, at command of the ordinance withinspecefeit past to the dwellein [*hous, deleted*] plaice of James, commendatar of Inchaffray, callit Innerpaiffrie, quhair William, bischof of Dunblane, was personallie present for the tyme (as the said commendatar confessit), and desyrit to have acces to the said bischof to the effect we mycht have usit our commissione within specefeit. Nochttheles, we could have nane, nather yit wald he

gif his presens to us albeit we remainit awaittein thairon fra the said day at twa houris aftirnone to the viij day of this instant at xj houris or thairby befor none. In respect quhairof, we made intimatioun to the said commendatar that the said bishop wald be summond *de novo* agane in the parroche kirk of Dunblane on Sondag nixt, the x day of December instant, to compeir befor the presbyteriis of Sterling and Dunblane in the parroche kirk of Sterling the xij day of December instant in the hour of caus, to gif ane confessione of his fayth and religione undir the paine of excommunicatione, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the samin summondis direct to that effect, and siclyk ane summondis beand productit dewlie execute and indorsit upone the said William, bishop, chairgein him *de novo* agane to compeir the said day in the parroche kirk of Sterling in the hour of caus to mak solem declaratioun in this assemblie and in sic uthir placis as he salbe ordeinit that he professis the reformat religione preichit and authoresit publictlie within this realm and to subscribe the confessione thairof, subscrivit be the kingis majestie and his houshold and the remanent faithfull within this realme, undir the paine of excommunicatione, with certificatioun and he compeir nocht or compeir and refuse to profes and subscribe, as said is, the brethrein will decern him to be admonest publictlie, according to the ordur, to obey thair said desyr, quhilk publict admonitionis being all contemnit that the sentence of excommunicatione salbe pronuncit againis him for his contemp and disobedience to the voice of the kirk reformat within this realme and continuance in that corruptit religione of papistrie repugnant to the Word of God, as at mair lynthe is conteinit in the said summondis. Quhilk bishop being oft tymis callit compeirit nocht, bot James Chisholme of Cromlickis compeirit in his name and declairit that he could nocht persais be the said bishopis mynd that he was ony wayis willein to profes nor subscribe the said reformat religione bot was purposit to pas aff the cuntrie ane competent day being grantit to him to that effect. The brethrein being ryplie advysit with the proces deducit againis the said William, bishop of Dunblane, and findand him obstinat in papistrie conjonit with malicius disobedience to the voice of the kirk reformat within this realme thairfore decernis and ordanis the ministeris of the evangell within the boundis of thair presbyteriis publictlie in thair parroche kirkis thir nixt thre Sondagis follwing

from thair pulpattis to admoneis him in name of the eternall God and of his reformat kirk within this realme to compeir befor the commissioner of this province and his brethrein of the ministrie in the kirk of Sterling on the Twysday nixt follwein everie ane of thair saidis admonitionis respectie thair to mak solem declaracion that he professis the said reformat religione and to subscrieve the confessione thair of abone mentionat undir the paine of excommunicatione, quhilkis admonitiounis, being all contemnit and disobeyit, decernis and ordanis the sentence of excommunicatione to be pronuncit againis the said William, bischop of Dunblane, and he to be cuttit aff fra the societie of Christis kirk and delyverit in the handis of Sathan for destructione of his flesche that his saull may be saif in the day of the Lord Jesus, incaice of his said contempt and disobedience, as said is, according to the Word of God, disceplein of the kirk, and lawis of this realme. And also ordanis the brethrein of the saidis presbyteriis to report, or at the leist caus be reportit in thair name to the assemblie to be hauldin in the kirk of Sterling the secund day of Januar nixttocum, thair diligence in gevein of the saidis admonitiounis, as said is, togethir with sure declaracione gif the said William, bischop, or ony in his name offiris to ony of the brethrein to obey the saidis admonitiounis at ony tyme befor the said secund day of Januar [Februar, *deleted*], as thai and everie ane of thame will answer upone thair obedience to the kirk.

APPENDIX

ABSTRACT of cases unresolved by December, 1587

2 January, 1587-8

Trial of Mr Andrew Kirk: Robert Menteith, minister, prophesied on the 13th chapter of the epistle to the Hebrews, beginning at the 9th verse to the 15th exclusive, and Mr Andrew Kirk added in the second place, as appointed, for trial of his ability to enter the ministry. Menteith's doctrine was found 'sklendir and the text nocht opnit up as is requisit', and so was exhorted to further study and to regular attendance at the exercise. In his first trial in public exercise, Kirk was found to be 'sound and gude' in doctrine, but in some places was 'nocht swa plain and sensabill as is requisit'. He was admitted to prophesy in the first place on Tuesday, 9th January, and urged to mend his former fault.

Bishop of Dunblane: The bishop was admonished from the pulpits within the presbyteries of Stirling and Dunblane on three successive Sundays to profess the reformed religion and subscribe the king's confession of faith. He was required to compear before the presbytery and agree to the same or be excommunicated, but failed to compear in person or by proxy. 'Thairfor the haill brethrein findis that the sentence of excommunicatione maist justlie aucht to be pronuncit againis the said William, bischop, instantlie', but for 'grater fulnes of ordur and that na gude occasione of lenitie and gentill admonitione sould be thocht to be omittit', the bishop was to be admonished again to conform before sentence be pronounced by James Anderson, commissioner.

Walter Buchanan, brother of John Buchanan of Arnprior: A summons was produced and executed to the effect that on 26th September last, Buchanan had compeared before the presbytery and had asked for a delay in proceedings against him. He was to depart from the country by Martinmas and admonished to subscribe the reformed faith and

renounce papistry. He failed to comply and is decerned worthy to be excommunicated for contempt and disobedience. All ministers of the presbyteries of Stirling and Dunblane were to admonish him publictly from their pulpits on three successive Sundays to compear before the presbytery to make public declaration that he will profess the reformed faith and subscribe the king's confession of faith under pain of excommunication. The ministers were to report their diligence in making the admonitions. Buchanan was found to be 'obstinat and indurit in papistrie'. He had refused to 'renunce the errur of the papeistis and embrais the said reformat religion', and had declined to submit 'his maidin bairn' for baptism 'according to the ordur approvit be the reformat kirk of this realm'.

John Buchanan of Arnprior: Summons executed upon Buchanan of Arnprior charging him to compear to give confession of his faith as subscribed by the king and to profess the reformed faith under pain of excommunication, but he failed to compear.

9 January, 1587/8

Trial of Mr Andrew Kirk: Kirk prophesied on the 13th chapter of the epistle to the Hebrews from the 15th to the 18th verses for trial of his ability to enter the ministry, and Mr Henry Laing added in second place. Kirk's doctrine was found sound and so was ordained to attend the exercise and to preach therein each month, at least, until the brethren were further resolved.

Bishop of Dunblane: James Anderson, commissioner, was appointed to pronounce sentence of excommunication against William, bishop of Dunblane unless the latter compeared and professed the reformed faith. The bishop failed to compear, and the commissioner 'producit ane misseive wretein subscryvit be his majestie direct to him, berand request of his hienes to continew the pronouncein of the said sentence on Sondag last and Sondag nixt, the vij and xiiij dayis of this instant moneth of December [*recte*, January], and siclyk ane uthir wretein direct be my lord chancellor at his hienes command to the samin effect, beraud also that he haid spokin sum of the brethrein in Edinburgh, quha thocht meit that the samin sould be continewit'. The commissioner, therefore, inquired from the brethren whether they agreed that pronouncing the sentence of excommunication

should be delayed. It was agreed to defer pronouncing the sentence until 16 January, in obedience to the king's request.

16 January, 1587/8

Bishop of Dunblane: This day was appointed to James Anderson, minister of Stirling, to pronounce excommunication against the bishop of Dunblane, if the bishop failed to render obedience. The bishop failed to compear, but John Drummond, 'servand to the kingis majestie, compeirit, and producit ane misseive wreting', dated Holyroodhouse, 15 January 1587/8, 'direct frome the kingis majestie to the said James Andirsone, subscryvit be his hienes, berand in effect that his grace hade tane cautione of the bischop of Dunblane that he sall, within fourtie dayis, depart out of this realme, and that gif he sa do his majestie thinkis it a sufficient obedience, desyring that all farther extremitie of censuris could be superseidit againis him'. Anderson desired the brethren to declare their judgment on suspending the pronouncing of excommunication. They agreed to the king's request and delayed pronouncing the sentence till they were advised by 'the brethrein of the kirk and specialle the nixt generall assemblie of the kirk gif it hauld on the sex day of Februar nixt, as is appointit'.

23 January, 1587/8

Walter Buchanan: Buchanan failed to compear, though admonished to do so by the ministers of the presbyteries of Stirling and Dunblane on three successive Sundays. The brethren therefore found that they might justly proceed to excommunication but they agreed to admonish him once more to compear before the synod to be held at Stirling on 30 January. The ministers of the presbyteries were 'to mak solem prayeris for the said Waltiris conversioun, and to exhort thair congregatiounis respective to pray for him'.

27 February, 1587/8

Bishop of Dunblane: The general assembly, it was intimated, had delivered an ordinance on 14 February 1587/8 requiring the whole

ministry of the presbyteries of Stirling and Dunblane, after the expiry of ten days, to proceed, without further admonitions, to the sentence of excommunication against William, bishop of Dunblane, in case of disobedience. It was reported by Mr William Cowper, minister at Bothkennar, Mr Henry Laing, minister at Airth, Mr Andrew Murdo, minister at Kippen, Robert Menteith, minister at Alva, Mr Alexander Wallace, minister at Clackmannan, and Patrick Laing, minister at Tulliallan, all being personally present, that they had fulfilled and executed the assembly's ordinance and had pronounced the sentence of excommunication against the bishop of Dunblane on Sunday, 25 February, cutting him off from the body of Christ and society of the kirk and giving him over to the hands and power of the devil to the destruction of his flesh. The remaining ministers were ordered to make intimation of the sentence in their kirks on Sunday, 3 March.

William Harvie, adulterer: Mr William Cowper, minister at Bothkennar, reported that he had ordered William Harvie and Marion Young to satisfy the kirk of Bothkennar for their adultery and to separate themselves on pain of excommunication, as required by an act made at Stirling on 24 October 1587, but Harvie had still not separated himself from Marion Young. Harvie compeared and alleged that he had obeyed the ordinance and that he had removed Marion Young from his house a long time ago. He claimed that he had been prepared to make repentance but that his minister had refused to accept it. Cowper replied that he would not receive his repentance since Harvie had not separated himself from the woman. The presbytery ordered Harvie to satisfy the particular session of his own parish church by separating himself from Marion Young so that the slander may be removed.

12 March, 1587/8

Mr Andrew Kirk licensed to preach: Kirk declared to the presbytery that 'thruche the seindill exercesein to him self in teichein, he is nocht in use of langage and memorie to uttir his doctrein to the proffeit of the auditur in sic forme as is requisit and thairfor

desyrit lycence to teiche in the kirkis of Muckert and Dolur or uthur of thame ane certane speace quhairby he may have the bettir occasione to exerceis him self in teichein'. The presbytery granted him licence to preach for five or six weeks in the foresaid kirks.

Placing Mr Andrew Murdo minister at Kippen: John Shaw of Broicht, 'ane honorabill mane' and one of the elders of the parish of Kippen, compeared before the presbytery and, on behalf of himself and the remaining elders and deacons of the parish, declared that after the synod of the presbyteries of Stirling and Dunblane had deposed their last minister, William Stirling, from all function in the ministry, 'simpill reidein only exceptit', the presbytery had appointed, at the parishioners' request, Mr Andrew Murdo as their ordinary pastor, as was recorded in an act at Stirling of 31 October 1587, but Murdo had still to be placed pastor at the kirk, and therefore desired the presbytery to appoint James Anderson, commissioner, to place him pastor at Kippen. The presbytery agreed that Anderson should pass to Kippen next Sunday to make public intimation that William Stirling was deposed from all function except simple reading by the synod, and that Stirling who was entered in the books of assignation as reader at the kirk of Port only was not acknowledged to have any office at Kippen. The commissioner was instructed to notify the parishioners of Kippen of Murdo's admission as ordinary pastor, and to desire their consent, to be signified by 'uphauling of thair handis'. Murdo was to declare in the parishioners' presence his willing obedience to accept office; the parishioners were to promise obedience to their pastor according to God's Word so long as he remained faithful in office; and Murdo was to promise solemnly to be a true and faithful pastor of that flock. The commissioner was then to place him pastor. [*In margin:* At Stirling, 19 March 1587/8 in presence of the brethren of the presbytery, James Anderson, commissioner, reported that he had placed Murdo ordinary pastor at Kippen on Sunday, 17 March immediately after sermon, and testified that the parishioners had given their consent, and that he had received solemn promises from both minister and congregation. The admission had taken place in presence of the whole congregation and of Alexander Saittone, Walter Leckie of that Ilk and James Ramsay, notary.

26 March, 1588

Walter Buchanan: Buchanan compeared before the presbytery and desired the brethren to continue pronouncing the sentence of excommunication against him for the space of 40 days. He promised either 'to pas af the cuntrie or ellis to imbrais and subscryve the reformat religione'. The presbytery postponed its answer till the next synod of the presbyteries of Stirling and Dunblane to be convened in the cathedral kirk of the city of Dunblane on 2 April next, before which Buchanan was ordered to compear. He promised to obey the summons.

9 April, 1588

Buchanan's excommunication: The presbytery inquired whether James Duncanson, reader at Stirling, had intimated to James Anderson, minister of Stirling, that the latter had been ordained by the synod to pronounce sentence of excommunication against Walter Buchanan on the first Sunday after Anderson's homecoming. Duncanson answered that he had made intimation to Anderson on 6 April. The presbytery then asked Anderson if he had fulfilled the synod's ordinance. Anderson replied that he had postponed pronouncing the sentence until he had conferred with the brethren, seeing he had been absent from the synod. 'Aftir lang rassoning and confirrence in the said mater', the presbytery ordained Anderson to pronounce the sentence next Sunday.

16 April, 1588

Walter Buchanan: The ordinance of the synodal assembly of the presbyteries of Stirling and Dunblane on 2 April had required James Anderson, minister of Stirling, commissioner and moderator for the time of the presbytery of Stirling, to pronounce sentence of excommunication against Walter Buchanan. Asked by the presbytery if he had executed the ordinance, Anderson replied that he had fulfilled and executed the same on Sunday, 14 April and had excommunicated Buchanan as an 'ennemie to the trew religione, a proud contemnar and ane membir altogidder pernicious' to the body of

Christ. Ministers in both presbyteries were to make intimation of the excommunication to their congregations. [On 23 April and 30 April, certain ministers reported to the presbytery that they had duly intimated the sentence from their pulpits.]

ERRATUM:

The following passage should be inserted on p. 98 at *

within the boundis of this presbytery caus execute and indorse faythfully all summondis direct on all and quhatsumevir personis that dwellis within thair parrochun, ilk ane . . .

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THE EXECUTIVE

1979-80

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REPORT

of the 93rd Annual Meeting

The 93rd Annual Meeting of the Scottish History Society was held in the Rooms of the Royal Society, George Street, Edinburgh, on Saturday, 8 December 1979, at 11.15 a.m. Professor A. A. M. Duncan, President of the Society, was in the chair.

The Report of Council was as follows:

The volume to be issued to members during the current year, the *Papers of Peter May, Land Surveyor*, edited by Dr Ian Adams, has been slightly delayed by difficulties with the index. Production is, however, well advanced, and it is expected that this volume, the fifteenth of the Fourth Series, will be in the hands of members within a few weeks.

The next volume to be published by the Society will be *Stirling Presbytery Records* of the late sixteenth century, edited by Dr James Kirk. These are the earliest surviving presbytery records, dating from the presbytery's formal erection on 8 August 1581, and they are an invaluable source for both ecclesiastical and social history. In addition to ecclesiastical administration, the records illustrate cases concerning marriage and matrimonial offences, murder and witchcraft, and Roman Catholic recusancy, along with many other aspects of ecclesiastical discipline.

During the past year the Council has accepted one work for future publication by the Society. Dr B. Levack and Mr B. R. Galloway will edit a volume to be entitled *The Jacobean Union*. It will consist of a number of tracts, both English and Scottish, written in 1604 in the hope of influencing the project of James VI and I for a union between England and Scotland. Only one of the tracts has been published previously, and they will illuminate both sides of the question.

Continuous inflation in recent years, reflected in steadily rising printing costs and postal charges, is making it difficult for the Society to carry out its publication programme on the present basis. Members' subscriptions have been maintained at their present level since 1976, and income from them no longer covers the cost of publication of the volume received annually by members, let alone the administrative costs of running the Society. The Council has therefore decided that, in order to maintain the Society's programme and put its finances on a sounder basis, the annual subscription be raised to £8 with effect from the beginning of the financial year which starts in November 1980.

On a happier note financially, the Council acknowledges with gratitude a generous donation of £600 from the Mary Robson Lilburn Memorial Fund. This money has been granted to support the publication of the volume on *Government under the Covenanters* which is being edited for the Society by Dr David Stevenson.

The three members of the Council due to retire by rotation at this time are Professor A. E. Anton, Mrs Enid Gauldie, and Mr E. J. Cowan. The following will be proposed to the Annual Meeting for election to Council: Mr John di Folco, Rev. Mark Dilworth, and Dr Alasdair Durie.

During the year four members have died, five have resigned and one has been removed from membership for non-payment of subscription. Thirty-five new members have joined. The total membership, including 223 libraries, is now 766, compared with 741 in 1978.

In presenting the Annual Report, Professor T. C. Smout, Chairman of Council, apologised for the delay in issuing the current volume to members, and referred to forthcoming publications. The Hon. Treasurer reviewed the financial situation, explaining the unusual nature of the current credit balance.

The Report and the Accounts were approved, and Mr John di Folco, Rev. Mark Dilworth, and Dr Alasdair Durie declared elected to membership of Council. The President delivered an address entitled 'The Burgesses in the Medieval Parliament'.

ABSTRACT ACCOUNT OF CHARGE AND DISCHARGE OF THE
INTROMISSIONS OF THE HONORARY TREASURER for
1 November 1978 to 31 October 1979

GENERAL ACCOUNT

CHARGE

I. Cash in Bank at 1 November 1978:	
1. Sum at credit of Savings Account with Bank of Scotland	£2,500.00
2. Sum at credit of Current Account with Bank of Scotland	362.12
3. Sum at credit of Savings Account with Edinburgh Savings Bank	75.41
4. Sum at credit of Special Investment Account with Edinburgh Savings Bank	487.19
	<hr/>
II. Subscriptions received	£3,424.72
	3,946.13
III. Past publications sold	1,238.16
IV. Reprints sold	163.37
V. Interest on Savings Accounts with Bank of Scotland and Edinburgh Savings Bank	243.21
VI. Income Tax Refund (1978-79)	248.81
VII. Donations	700.00
VIII. Carnegie Trust Grant	300.00
IX. Sums drawn from Bank Current Account	<u>£5,513.24</u>
X. Sums drawn from Bank Savings Account	<u>£ —</u>
	<hr/>
	£10,300.40
	<hr/>

DISCHARGE

i. Cost of printing Annual Reports, Notices and Printers' Postages, etc.	£307·95
ii. Insurance Premiums	28·13
iii. Miscellaneous Payments	288·15
iv. Sums lodged in Bank Current Account	<u>£6,994·59</u>
v. Sums lodged in Bank Savings Account	<u>£8,194·82</u>
vi. Funds at close of this account:	
1. Balance at credit of Savings Account with Bank of Scotland	£7,600·00
2. Balance at credit of Current Account with Bank of Scotland	1,481·35
3. Balance at credit of Savings Account with Edinburgh Savings Bank	78·41
4. Balance at credit of Special Investment Account with Edinburgh Savings Bank	<u>516·41</u>
	9,676·17
	<u>£10,300·40*</u>

GLASGOW, 7 November 1979. I have examined the General Account of the Honorary Treasurer of the Scottish History Society for the year from 1 November 1978 to 31 October 1979, and I find the same to be correctly stated and sufficiently vouched.

I. M. M. MACPHAIL
Auditor

* The large credit balance reflects the fact that no volume has been paid for in the year covered by the accounts.

